

AN
ACCOUNT OF THE PROCEEDINGS
AT THE
SIXTH ANNIVERSARY MEETING
OF THE
PROVINCIAL
MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION,

Held at Bath,

ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, JULY 18TH AND 19TH, 1838.

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The Retrospective Address will appear in the Seventh Volume of the Transactions, which will be published in the Spring.

PROCEEDINGS
AT THE
SIXTH ANNIVERSARY MEETING
OF THE
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HELD AT BATH.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL AT THE ROYAL LITERARY AND
SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION.

THE business commenced on Wednesday, July the 18th, at twelve o'clock, and Dr. Boisragon, the President, was called to the Chair. The object of the meeting was principally to agree upon the Report to be submitted to the General Meeting, and to make the arrangements that were necessary for carrying on the proceedings.

After the Report of the Council had been agreed to, Dr. Hastings intimated that the following resolution had been sent to him by Mr. Wickham, which had been passed at the meeting of the Southern District Branch at Salisbury:—"That the Southern District Branch do earnestly request the Parent Society to reconsider the resolution passed last year, appointing *one-seventh* part of their subscriptions to the different branches, for

defraying their local expenses: that so indiscriminate a mode of allotment does not appear to be the most judicious, inasmuch as the expenses of the branches will bear no fixed proportion or necessary relation whatever to the number of their members: that should the branches be impeded in their proceedings by the want of necessary means, it is to be greatly apprehended that they will soon dissolve, or break off from the Parent Society; and that the Southern Branch has the less scruple in appealing for an increased allowance, being well assured, that even were the present allotment doubled, the Parent Society would still have been largely benefitted in a pecuniary point of view by the establishment of the Southern Branch, which has increased the Society's funds within this district more than tenfold."

A discussion ensued, in which the Council were unanimously of opinion that this request could not safely be granted, without danger of embarrassing the financial affairs of the Association, and therefore, although reluctant to do so, they were compelled to recommend the General Meeting to adhere to their former resolution.

Dr. Hastings said the next resolution related to the choice of a place of meeting for the next anniversary. There were several places to which the Association might go with advantage, and London had been named as highly eligible; but there was one place in particular which was pointed out to them, inasmuch as they had had a very pressing invitation from upwards of 100 members of the pro-

fession in that town: that place was Liverpool. If the solicitations from that town had not been so pressing, London would probably have been selected, in obedience to the expressed wishes of many of the members; but it would be a question for their future consideration whether the metropolis should be the place of their meeting in the following year.

The following are the names of the gentlemen whose signatures were attached to the invitation forwarded from Liverpool:—J. P. Brandreth, M.D.; T. H. Banning, M.D.; J. Rutter, M.D.; James Dawson, Esq.; P. W. Scott, M.D.; J. Bevan, Esq.; D. Macrorie, M.D.; J. S. Carsil, Esq.; Hugh Neill, Esq.; Alexander Hannay, M.D.; George Rogerson, Esq.; W. L. Cocks, Esq.; Francis Archer, Esq.; Charles Worthington, Esq.; P. J. Murphy, M.D.; William Reynolds, M.D.; Samuel Bromilow, Esq.; John J. Timmons, Esq.; R. Ellison, Esq.; R. Bickersteth, Esq.; H. Sorley, M.D.; Thos. Jeffreys, M.D.; David Baird, M.D.; John O'Donnell, M. D.; James C. Fergusson, Esq.; William Turner, Esq.; Henry Anderton, Esq.; J. S. Godfrey, Esq.; John Burrows, Esq.; Heusman and Son; Arch. Robertson, M.D.; John Callan and Son; Richard Forshaw, Esq.; Thomas W. Cattell, Esq.; William Gill, Esq.; Thomas Eden, Esq.; James Carson, senior, M.D.; C. B. Greatrex, Esq.; Edward Batty, Esq.; Thomas Simon, Esq.; J. Bennil, Esq.; J. Cauty, Esq.; Alexander Hookes, Esq.; E. Staller, Esq.; G. Johnstone, Esq.; D. Rose, Esq.; J. Poole, Esq.; John Shaw, Esq.; H. V. Martin, Esq.; F. Wilson,

Esq. ; Henry Bradshaw, Esq. ; A. Gillon, Esq. ; John Ashcroft, Esq. ; D. Cohen, M.D. ; W. H. Lyuass, Esq. ; Robert Hector, Esq. ; B. Nightingale, Esq. ; J. Hughes, Esq. ; John Flayde, Esq. ; John Blackburn, Esq. ; Richard Kay, Esq. ; J. Lackwood, Esq. ; Charles Boyce, M.D. ; John Nicol, M.D. ; John Moore, Esq. ; S. McCulloch, Esq. ; James Carson, junior, M.B. ; P. Ramsay, M.D. ; T. O. Dobson, Esq. ; John Sutherland, M.D. ; Ellis Jones, Esq. ; W. T. Callon, Esq. ; Edward Bradley, Esq. ; Thomas Gouthwaite, M.D. ; D. Chalmers, Esq. ; James Long, Esq. ; Joseph Dickinson, M.B. ; John Corlet, Esq. ; D. H. Mc Nicoll, Esq. ; Chalmer and Son, Esqrs. ; James Craig, Esq. ; George C. Watson, Esq. ; Thomas Pennington, Esq. ; John Cheesbrough, Esq. ; R. P. Tucker, Esq. ; Henry Reston, Esq. ; Robert Hamilton, Esq. ; James Nottage, Esq. ; David James, M.D. ; Thomas Luntas, Esq. ; Henry Emitt, Esq. ; James Mum, Esq. ; John Shaw, Esq. ; J. R. W. Vase, M.D. ; William Craig, Esq. ; W. P. Thomas, Esq. ; J. D. Mackenzie, M.D. ; Samuel Malins, M.D. ; J. Moffall, Esq. ; J. H. Davis, Esq.

It was then unanimously determined to recommend Liverpool to the General Meeting as the town in which the Anniversary should be held for the year 1839.

GENERAL MEETING AT THE LECTURE ROOM OF THE BATH
LITERARY INSTITUTION.

Shortly after seven o'clock on Wednesday evening, the General Meeting of the members took place at the Lecture Room of the Bath Literary Institution,

at which a very considerable number of medical gentlemen attended, among whom were the following:—
— Addington, Esq., Ashley Court, near Bristol; Dr. Ainsworth, Manchester; Dr. T. J. Aitkin, Poole; Dr. Alexander, Chippenham; R. H. Alexander, Esq., Corsham; W. F. Bally, Esq., Bath; Dr. Barlow, Bath; R. Barnett, Esq., Stourport; J. Barrett, Esq., Sherborne; Dr. Barry, Torquay; Dr. Bealey, Bath; Dr. Begley, Hanwell; James Bisdee, Esq., West Town; Dr. Blackmore, Bath; Dr. Boisragon, Cheltenham; Dr. Boisragon, jun., Cheltenham; Dr. Bompas, Fishponds; W. Brown, Esq., Bath; S. Bryant, Esq., Bristol; S. Bullen, Esq., Wells; Dr. Burne, London; J. B. Burroughs, Esq., Clifton; W. Bush, Esq., Bath; H. Cartwright, Esq., Torquay; W. Church, Esq., Bath; H. Coles, Esq., Cheltenham; W. Colborne, Esq., Chippenham; R. Collius, Esq., Chew Magna; Dr. Conolly, Cheltenham; Dr. Conolly, Birmingham; Dr. Cowan, Reading; James Crang, Esq., Timsbury; J. G. Crosse, Esq., Norwich; W. Dalton, Esq., Wimborne; Dr. Daniell, Bath; J. Darke, Esq., Berkeley; Dr. Davis, Bristol; A. Davis, Esq., Rushall; A. T. S. Dodd, Esq., Chichester; — Drake, Esq., Wells; Dr. G. W. Dyke, Devizes; C. Edwards, Esq., Batheaston; J. B. Estlin, Esq., Bristol; — Evans, Esq., Bristol; A. Eves, Esq., Cheltenham; R. Falkner, Esq., Bath; Dr. Feild, Worcester; — Field, Esq., Bath; F. Flower, Esq., Chilcompton; Dr. Forbes, Chichester; Dr. H. H. Fox, Bristol; Drs. F. and C. Fox, Brislington House; J. Fox, Esq., Cerne Abbey; G. D. Fripp, Esq., Bristol; G. T. George, Esq., Southampton; J. L. Gibbs,

Esq., Westbury ; T. Green, Esq., Bristol ; Dr. Gregory, London ; Dr. Grove, Salisbury ; R. T. Gore, Esq., Bath ; R. Godfrey, Esq., Bath ; S. Hare, Esq., Leeds ; Dr. Harman, Bath ; Dr. Hastings, Worcester ; G. E. Hay, Esq., Bath ; M. P. Hayward, Esq., Stonehouse ; C. H. Hebb, Esq., Worcester ; George H. Hetling, Esq., Bristol ; Dr. Heywood, Blandford ; — Hiscox, Esq., Bath ; Dr. Holme, Manchester ; C. Hooper, Esq., Kempsey ; Dr. Howell, Swansea ; — Hudson, Esq., Wells ; W. Hutchins, Esq., Keynsham ; Dr. Jeffreys, Liverpool ; Dr. J. P. Johnson, Shrewsbury ; J. Jordan, Esq., Manchester ; Dr. Wm. Kay, Clifton ; J. Kilvert, Esq., Bath ; G. Kenrick, Esq., Melksham ; Dr. Kidd, Oxford ; G. Kitson, Esq., Bath ; J. M. Knapp, Esq., Bath ; W. Leach, Esq., Chilcompton ; C. Liugen, Esq., Hereford ; Dr. Lowder, Bath ; Dr. Macartney, Dublin ; Dr. Macmullen, Wells ; Dr. Malden, Worcester ; P. Marriot, Esq., Bath ; P. Marshall, Esq., Shepton Mallet ; T. Martin, Esq., Reigate ; George May, Esq., Reading ; J. Meears, Esq., Worcester ; W. F. Morgan, Esq., Bristol ; — Morgan, Esq., Corsham ; Wm. Mortimer, Esq., Clifton ; — Newman, Esq., Mere ; G. Norman, Esq., Bath ; — Palmer, Esq., Bath ; G. Partridge, Esq., London ; W. Perry, Esq., Bathford ; C. Pope, Esq., Temple Cloud ; Dr. Ring, Reading ; T. Roblyn, Esq., Clifton ; Dr. W. Sainsbury, Corsham ; Dr. T. Salter, Poole ; G. Sampson, Esq., Salisbury ; T. Sawer, Esq., Exeter ; Dr. Shapter, Exeter ; Dr. Shute, Gloucester ; — Skinner, Esq., Bath ; C. Smerdon, Esq., Clifton ; N. Smith, Esq., Bristol ; J. S. Soden, Esq., Bath ; John Soden, Esq., Bath ;

J. C. Spender, Esq., Bath ; G. Spry, Esq., Bath ; T. Stockwell, Esq., Bath ; — Stowe, Esq., Bath ; Dr. Streeten, Worcester ; T. L. Surrage, Esq., Clifton ; Dr. Symonds, Bristol ; — Taylor, Esq., Cricklade ; Wm. Tudor, Esq., Bath ; Thos. Taunton, Esq., Worcester ; Dr. Wallis, Bristol ; — Washbourne, Esq., Corsham ; Dr. James Watson, Bath ; Dr. C. J. B. Williams, London ; J. W. Wilton, Esq., Gloucester ; J. Woodcock, Esq., Bury ; — Woodland, Esq., Bridgwater ; G. L. Wood, Esq., Bath ; H. Woods, Esq., Bath ; J. C. Yeatman, Esq., Froome, &c., &c., &c.

On the motion of Dr. Hastings, Dr. Boisragon took the chair, and immediately proceeded to address the members on the occasion of his vacating the Presidency as follows :—

“ Gentlemen of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association,—Surrounded as I now am by so numerous a body of our learned and intellectual profession ; addressing from this chair, to which you did me the high and distinguished honour of electing me at our former meeting, and which I am now on the point of vacating for ever, the *élite* of my professional brethren, scattered through the provinces of this empire, I feel that I should ill discharge my duty to all, and disappoint the expectations of many, were I to resign the important and honourable office of President and to retire into the ranks from which your gratifying, though perhaps too partial, suffrages drew me forth, without briefly announcing to this learned auditory some of the important topics more intimately connected with

the future interests and ulterior success of this your rapidly rising and *nationally* influential Association during the past year. Gentlemen, the untiring, though multiplied labours of your Secretaries and Council; the ardent and intellectual character of your Founder, to whose original and well-directed efforts we are indebted for our useful existence, and who unites to the splendid achievement of creating a moral power hitherto unknown to this country in medical science, the beneficial yet unassuming merit of conducting its laborious details; the energy and talent of the contributors among yourselves to your various and judicious arrangements as depositories of scientific facts and statistical relations; in a word, all that the enlightened acuteness through the executive organization of your Body could suggest for the furtherance and improvement of your grand designs, have been carefully and diligently considered during the period that has elapsed since I had the honour of opening the last meeting at Cheltenham, and of appearing before you in this chair, to which an able individual of your number, with pretensions to that distinction far superior to any to which I can aspire, is for your advantage and reputation about to succeed me. It would be not less injudicious than indelicate to attempt on this occasion any anticipation of what falls properly within the functions of your President elect, or of trenching on that ground which will no doubt be so ably cultivated when my learned successor addresses you from this chair; but it may not, I trust, be considered as irrelevant or uninteresting, while returning you my ardent thanks for

the confidence reposed in me during the past year, to give you some brief account of my stewardship in the present, more especially as during the interval of the last and present meeting, a circumstance of very paramount importance to the present dignity and future interests of your Association has taken place, calculated, in the opinion of my official colleagues and myself, to advance in no common degree the influential character of this body, and to give it (though properly without a "*local habitation*") a "*name*" which will stamp the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association of Great Britain among the highest of those learned and scientific bodies whose proud design is to unite the cultivation of a noble philanthropy with the assiduous prosecution of philosophical truth. To be distinguished among our fellow men—to deserve the approbation of the wise and good—and to secure that of the mass with whom we must necessarily come in contact, by the moral power as well as by the physical improvements of this age of discovery, belongs to the higher and grander objects of your Association; and it is a proud consideration to announce that the era of our importance and value as a national organ for the extension and support of medical science, has already commenced, and that, in conformity with your resolution at the last meeting, your dutiful and loyal address to our gracious and youthful Queen was presented, and graciously received by her Majesty, through the flattering introduction to her royal presence of her first Minister of State. The next, perhaps the most pleasing communication it is my duty to deliver, is that of the gratifying,

indeed the flattering reception of your Deputation by the highest in rank and most influential in character and talent among the leading members of our profession in the Metropolis. My distinguished and learned colleagues who accompanied and graced my humble pretensions with their support, received from one of the brightest ornaments of surgical science—need I mention the name of Sir Astley Cooper?—a reception which, for liberal and splendid hospitality, could not be exceeded; imparting honour and consequence to your body through your accredited representatives, by drawing around his table for the occasion a great portion of the *élite* of metropolitan celebrity, who vied with “our host” in doing honour to an Association which will soon connect, by links of courtesy and kind feeling, the best interests of the profession at large, and unite the provincials with the metropolis in a common bond of union, alike important to its own dignity and the best interests of the Society itself. Should it therefore, Gentlemen, fall within the scope or intention of your Council to make the metropolis, at either an earlier or later period, the focus of your annual meeting; should your “local habitation” at any time be pitched in that mighty arena of talent and science, your names shall have honourably preceded you; and I think I shall be supported by my able and learned colleagues in assuring you that you will be received by our metropolitan brethren, of the highest distinction, with a friendliness and good will, arising from the importance to society and to the profession at large of the cause that unites you, as well as with a courteous liberality, that will not

only render a visit to London a duty to ourselves, but will also constitute a delightful re-union with those medical chiefs, most of whom we may have known in our earlier years, and who will themselves thus learn how best to appreciate provincial talent, through an equally solid, though perhaps less brilliant celebrity. I have now, Gentlemen, only to announce, in my concluding remarks, that I have had the honour of officially signing, through our valued and indefatigable Secretary, Dr. Hastings, your spirited and judicious petition to the legislature against the degrading and, some of them, iniquitous clauses in the Poor Law Bill, which will be presented to the House of Commons by Mr. Sergeant Talfourd, and which cannot fail, we must hope, in tending at least to open the eyes of its narrow-minded concocters, whose degraded enactments against some of the first interests of humanity involve equally the safe and judicious treatment of the sick poor with the dignity and just remuneration of a liberal and arduous profession. My grateful task, Gentlemen, imperfectly as I feel it has been performed, is now over : my official duties verge at this moment in the person of my able and accomplished successor ; but I cannot retire from before you without endeavouring to convey, *ab imo pectore*, my zealous though still feeble expressions of its sincerity in your cause, and to assure you that those efforts for your increasing success, which you have in so flattering a manner honoured, through your nomination of me as President, shall be continued with undiminished assiduity as a private member of your noble Association. In present-

ing, Gentlemen, your new President, I have only to mention the name of Barlow to secure your confidence and highest approbation ; a name long associated with all that can command respect in our liberal and enlightened profession ; a name that has distinguished itself in various departments of sound investigation and medical philosophy, and upon which the worthy owner will, in your Presidential chair, confer no less honour than he received from it by that devotion to your interests which his character and reputation warrant me in attaching to his name. Gentlemen, farewell."

Dr. Barlow, on taking the chair as President for the ensuing year, addressed the members to the following effect :—

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT.

" Gentlemen,—In entering on the office which your kindness has assigned to me, my first agreeable duty is to bid you all heartily welcome to this our ancient city, which was never more signally honoured than it is on the present occasion. Cultivated talent and moral worth, especially when combined, must ever receive the respect and regard of all who are capable of appreciating them. For both, our revered profession has ever been eminent ; and when they who, even among its members, distinguish themselves by pressing forward in the career of humane and enlightened endeavour, assemble in such numbers as I rejoice to see now around me, for the purpose of cultivating still further their divine art, and

promoting the best interests of humanity, their presence must confer honour on any place which is graced by such an assemblage. It is not my design, Gentlemen, to trespass long on your time or attention, in the address from the chair, with which the customs of our Association require me to open the present session. To do so would be an abuse of the privilege which my present situation confers, and prove only an irksome delay of the far more interesting matter which will be speedily submitted to your consideration. In each successive year some change takes place in the circumstances under which your President addresses you. Heretofore, and until the designs for which the Association was instituted, had become generally understood, it was the duty of your Presidents, in their respective discourses, to dwell on those designs and the evidences of their fulfilment, so as to make the nature, scope, tendency, and progressive realisation, familiar to all concerned. Happily this is no longer needed ; for the years that have elapsed since we first assembled to found this Association, and the wide diffusion of our *Reports* and *Transactions* have made these designs fully known ; while the extension of the Association, which in respect both of numbers and space, has advanced with a rapidity which I may say is unexampled, furnishes assurance the most unequivocal of their being justly appreciated. Were further proof of this needed, the assemblage which I now see before me, congregated from almost every part of the kingdom, must suffice to carry conviction to the most sceptical. And here, Gentlemen, I will remark, that so long as we display such evidence of

zealous and harmonious co-operation, we may be content to pursue the direct and even tenour of our way, whatever the opposition we may chance to encounter; and, cheered by the consciousness that, so far as our abilities extend, we are pursuing laudable objects from pure motives, may safely disregard objections, such as only ignorance or misconception of our designs could urge against us. Practical details and statistical elucidations you will have abundantly in the ulterior proceedings of the present meeting; on all such it would be vain and idle for me to dwell. I prefer, therefore, during the few moments to which my present address shall be limited, to direct your attention to those considerations which admit not of statistical exposition, yet which are not the less valuable from requiring to be addressed rather to the mind's eye than to our actual perceptions. The main objects for which we are associated, as stated in our fundamental constitution, are, the advancement of medical science, and the maintenance of the honour and respectability of the profession. These objects are intimately connected; for unless science be diligently and effectively cultivated, the honour and respectability of the profession would rest on a very slight foundation; and unless the honour and respectability of the profession were otherwise maintained, on the high ground of moral integrity and liberal sentiment, no advance in science could vindicate its claim to that high estimation in which it has through ages been held, and which, I trust, it will ever even with sensitive jealousy preserve. The feelings of the sensitive Roman, who would not that his wife should be

even suspected of error, are to be commended ; and with similar feelings it should be our care so to conduct the proceedings of our Association, that not even the suspicion of selfish or sinister designs should attach to us. To the cultivation of medical science our endeavours have been hitherto directed, with an earnestness and steadiness of which it becomes not me here to speak. However little these endeavours may have hitherto produced, they have at least been exerted with a zeal worthy of the cause which called them forth. My present purpose however is not to dilate on these efforts or their fruits, but to impress on you all that they who would judge of the value of our Association, even by the efforts already made, or the products which have resulted from them, would form but a very imperfect estimate of the benefits which our Association is conferring, and which it cannot fail eventually to realise. It has been asked, and in a depreciating tone and unfriendly spirit, what have we done ? The very question conveys to me the conviction that the party proposing it has no adequate conception of the subject on which he affects to seek information. No one really imbued with the love of science or the spirit of truth, would even form the conception of judging us by so crude and inadequate a test. It is, no doubt, true that fruits should be the proofs by which modes of cultivation should be judged ; but surely not till time be given for seeds to germinate and plants to fructify. In our cultivation of medical science, it surely cannot be barren of fruits when upwards of one thousand energetic members of a liberal and enlightened

profession are incited by the inspiriting stimulus which this Association supplies, to exert their best faculties and most earnest efforts for investigating those truths of nature which it has ever been the object and aim of our profession to explore. In the activity thus aroused, there is an ample assurance that the energies so called forth will not be unprofitable; that to the seed thus sown may we look with full confidence for a rich and abundant harvest. I care not, Gentlemen, how slowly this harvest advances; it being enough to satisfy me that it is advancing. I am not impatient for brilliant discoveries, such as the history of science has shewn to occur only at intervals few and far between. Science is ever of slow advance, if this is to be judged by the sudden bounds by which consummate genius starts a-head of contemporary talent, marking epochs in the history of the science. But it is ever steadily progressive, if we note the slow, but sure, the humble, unpretending, but diligent and unwearied labour with which its ordinary votaries endeavour to extend it. Among these humble labourers do we class ourselves; with the merit attaching to such labour we will be content, and on the result of such labour are we satisfied to rely. Should it fall within the inscrutable designs of Providence that some master-mind should spring up among us, some heaven-born genius destined to achieve the performances and equal the eminence of a Newton or a Harvey, we shall gratefully hail the distinction, assuming only the humble merit of having used our best endeavour to incite and cherish such transcendent talent. But, Gentlemen, in the ordinary pursuit

of our objects we look not for such results, and on the diligent exercise of ordinary talents are we content to rest our claims for commendation, encouragement and support. I am led to submit these views to you, Gentlemen, believing them to be those of truth and sober reason ; for while I would deprecate all extravagant anticipations and vain boastings, I conceive it essential to the steady progress of our combined exertions, that we neither undervalue what we have done, nor form an incorrect estimate of what our conjoined labours are capable of effecting. On the second head of my present address, that, namely, which relates to the maintenance of the honour and respectability of the profession, I shall be very brief; for this honour and respectability must ever flow, not from self-elating pretensions or arrogant claims to consideration, but from the professional skill and moral worth of the individual members. As the aggregate of parts constitutes the whole, so must the maintenance of honour and respectability by each individual member of our Association ensure beyond the possibility of failure, the continuance of these long enjoyed attributes to the collective body ; and when I consider the high moral qualities which the members of our body on all occasions display, the talents they evince, and the zeal they manifest, to all of which even the brief records of our Association already bear ample testimony, I can entertain no fears of our ever, as a profession, descending from that high moral eminence, on which the opinions of the world, and the express declaration of several of the sagest and most acute observers of human nature, have for ages

placed us. On the conduct of our individual members I confidently rely for preserving unsullied that reputation which the profession has hitherto maintained. I would here only impress one caution respecting those measures in which we may in our corporate capacity be called on to engage. Corporate proceedings are subject to the same laws, and are to be tried by the same test as individual conduct. All flow from motives more or less elevated or debased ; and where the higher motives can be brought to bear on any point, those of a lower class should never be suffered to prevail. The human mind is endued with various faculties, all suited to this our transient and probationary state of existence. We have various animal incitements to urge us to whatever is necessary for the continuance and enjoyment of life ; but we have also moral faculties to control the lower propensities, and judge those actions to which our animal nature may impel us. It too often happens that the dictates of the animal propensities assume the garb and exercise the authority of the moral sentiments, thus misleading into error many who, under the delusion, are scarcely conscious of doing wrong. But an honest scrutiny of motives, an ingenuous reference of each of these to the moral or animal feeling in which it originates, can never fail to detect the deception, and guide into the right path all who desire to pursue it. These comments would here be impertinent but that they serve to indicate the criterion by which each corporate act of our Association should invariably be judged. Whenever the act is such as all the higher moral feelings of our nature

clearly sanction and approve, let us fearlessly perform it, regardless of all that imperfect conception or timidity may urge against it. On the contrary, whenever an animal or selfish impulse can be traced among the influencing motives, however slight the degree in which this may be intermingled, let us ever pause until we depurate the moral motives from the dregs which vitiate them, and restore the higher sentiments to that supremacy with which the Creator has endowed them. I have assimilated corporate acts to individual in the motives which incite them, and the tests by which they are to be tried. But there is one difference which deserves to be noticed as important in our present view of the subject. Corporate acts are less redeemable than individual, and therefore require to be still more carefully guarded from error. Hitherto we have been guarded in our corporate measures, and to ensure a continuance of the same circumspection is the end to which the few remarks which I have now offered are directed. With these I now conclude my present trespass on your time and patience, respectfully yet earnestly exhorting the several members of our excellent Association to apply the energies of their own minds to both the important topics to which I have referred. It will gratify me if what I have ventured thus cursorily to submit to them shall, on deliberate reflection, receive the sanction of their own judgments; and still more if to the sentiments to which I have given utterance their own feelings shall be found to respond. So far as my judgment and feelings are capable of guiding me I would say,—In cultivating medical

science disdain not, through vain aspirations for profound theories or dazzling generalizations, that patient observation of nature and diligent collection of accurate facts, from which all true theory must be derived, all sound generalization deduced ; and, in upholding the honour and respectability of the profession, let the measures we collectively sanction ever bear the impress of that high-toned moral feeling which has so long distinguished our profession, and by which its true interests require us ever to abide."

Dr. Hastings then read the Report of the Council, which was as follows :—

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND
SURGICAL ASSOCIATION, FOR THE YEAR 1837-8.

The steady progress of the affairs of this Association from the period of its institution, six years ago, to the present time, serves most undeniably to evince that its founders made a correct estimate of the existing desire among the cultivators of medical science residing in the English provinces to combine together, so as to make their labours more instrumental than they had formerly been in the advancement of the healing art. Each revolving year has increased the number of its members (which now amount to one thousand and eighty), while the influence that has arisen from this additional strength, has been directed to the accomplishment of the important objects which were, at the commencement of the undertaking, specified as most worthy of regard.

The review of the period which has elapsed since the last Anniversary Meeting gives encouragement to the hope that each returning year may afford fresh demonstration of the advantages that may result from the continuance of an Association which has in view the promotion of harmony and good feeling among its members, and the collection and diffusion of facts which may serve to render medical science more signally beneficial to mankind.

DISTRICT BRANCHES.

The Council are happy to record that they believe the system which was sanctioned at the last Anniversary Meeting, of dividing the Association into District Branches, is likely to be attended with very favourable results, by adding to the number of its members, and by facilitating the scientific and social intercourse which it is the great object of this Association to promote. Since the last Anniversary, two District Branches have been added to those which were then in existence, viz., one at Newton, in Lancashire, called the Newton Branch, comprehending members residing at Manchester, Liverpool, Warrington, and several towns in the North of England; the other at Shrewsbury, called the Shropshire and North Wales District Branch. There are now, therefore, six Branches,—the Eastern, the Wells, the Southern, the Bath, the Newton, and the Shropshire Branch of the Provincial Medical Association. Each of these Branches has, in compliance with the laws passed last year, submitted the regulations by which it is governed

to the Central Council of the Association. In these regulations there is nothing which calls for any comment, as they are formed on the basis of the resolutions agreed upon by the Cheltenham Meeting, and have consequently been confirmed. It may, however, be right to remark that the associates in the Newton Branch have declined receiving the allowance of one-seventh part of the amount of their subscriptions to defray the expenses of the District Branch, as they prefer meeting this expenditure by an additional contribution among themselves.

FINANCES.

The state of the finances will ever require the vigilant attention of your Council, as much of the usefulness of the Society would be diminished if its pecuniary affairs did not flourish. It is, therefore, very satisfactory to discover at the end of a year, during which the demands upon the funds have been greater than before, that the income has been so far increased, that a larger balance than on the last occasion of our assembling together, is in the hands of the Treasurers.

	£. s. d.
The income is.....	1249 17 1
The expenditure is	825 1 3
The balance is	£424 15 10

It may not be irrelevant here to point out to those members who have not sent in their subscriptions, that they can at any time do so, without much trouble, by paying the amount to their own bankers,

and desiring that it may be remitted to Messrs. Robarts and Co., London, for Messrs. Berwick and Co., Worcester, on account of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association. A punctual attention to this regulation by the members who have not an opportunity of paying their subscriptions through other channels, would considerably increase the resources of the Association, and consequently contribute to its general efficiency.

TRANSACTIONS.

The superintendence of the publication of the *Transactions* has anxiously engaged the attention of the Council, and the contributions of the members have enabled them to publish the sixth volume. It is gratifying to observe the progress the Association is making in laying before the public the Medical Topography of England; the memoirs on Exeter and Cheltenham abound in interesting medical and statistical details, which, if followed up by similar descriptions throughout the kingdom at large, cannot fail to be productive of much benefit. The Council also congratulate the members that the replies to the inquiries respecting the epidemic influenza contained considerable information from persons residing in different parts of the kingdom, and have thus enabled the authors of the report on that subject to publish a communication of very great value. The result of this inquiry is very satisfactory, as it shows that in all future epidemics a similar plan may with propriety be adopted; and it has encouraged the Council to issue queries

of a similar nature respecting small-pox, and the protecting influence of vaccination. It has been suggested, also, that were members generally to communicate the results of their experience in the management of certain diseases upon which there exists at present considerable difference of opinion, valuable information might be expected to accrue. Cases which, taken separately, are of little value in the establishment of correct views, either of pathology or practice, when arranged and compared with those already recorded, would thus possess great interest, and lead to important results. The Council are, therefore, disposed to urge members to forward notices or complete histories of any such cases as may occur in their practice, with the view of classifying them upon some future occasion, when they shall be in sufficient number or of sufficient importance to render it desirable to publish them.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The connection of a Benevolent Fund with the Association is too important to be passed by unnoticed. The Council are happy to congratulate the members on the fund having come into active operation; but, as a report will be presented detailing what has been done by the Benevolent Committee, it will not be necessary to do more in this place than strongly to recommend this object of the Association to the cordial support of the members. The Committee, at Cheltenham, last year, recommended collecting contributions in small sums. This recommendation has been acted upon

by a member at Warrington, who, through the assistance of friends, has collected upwards of thirty pounds, thus proving that, by a little exertion, a considerable addition may in this manner be made to the fund.

PAROCHIAL MEDICAL RELIEF.

The question of parochial medical relief, to which so much attention has been given by this Association, is still in an unsettled state; but, in compliance with the prayer of the petition sent last year from this Association to Parliament, the House of Commons have entered upon the investigation of this difficult subject, and it is much to be desired that the combined wisdom of our parliamentary representatives may be enabled to devise some means by which an improvement may be effected in the present system. For the convenience of members, and for the purpose of substantiating the statements contained in the Poor Law Committee Report, and with the hope of ensuring a complete and candid investigation, the Council appointed a competent delegate to be present at the medical inquiry. Two members of the late Poor-Law Committee appointed by the Association have also been examined before the Select Committee of the House of Commons, and have thus had an opportunity of detailing the evils, and pointing out the deficiencies of the present system of parochial medical relief; and, at the same time, of supporting the recommendations for amendment contained in the two reports adopted by the Association, with such additions and improvements

as time and further consideration have suggested. It appears, therefore, necessary that a Committee should be specially appointed to watch the further progress of the subject through Parliament, and to suggest to the Council, from time to time, such measures as may appear to them necessary to meet circumstances as they arise.

PRIZE ESSAY.

The Committee appointed at Cheltenham to fix on the subject of the Thackeray Prize, sent in their report early in the present year, and the Council lost no time in making known their determination through the periodical press, and have announced that a prize of fifty pounds will be awarded to the author of the best essay, having for its object,—the investigation of the sources of the common continued fevers of Great Britain and Ireland, and the ascertaining of the circumstances which favour the diffusion of these diseases, and also those circumstances which may have a tendency to render them communicable from one person to another. The prize will be open to the competition of the members of every accredited school for medicine and surgery in the United Kingdom, and the essays are to be sent to the Secretaries of the Association on or before the first of January, 1840.

Each essay is to have a motto affixed, and to be accompanied with a sealed note, containing the name and residence of the author, and the motto is to be written on the outside of the note.

The Council are of opinion that at this meeting certain members should be appointed to fix upon the essay which is best entitled to the prize.

EMPIRICISM.

The Council are aware that one duty which should never be forgotten by the members of the Association, is that of assisting in every practicable way to improve the medical art, and to uphold the dignity of the profession.

The evils resulting from quackery are of so obvious a nature, and the system tends so much to obstruct the steady progress of medical science, that its suppression is devoutly to be wished. Within the last two or three years there has been a growing opinion that the Legislature should interfere, and endeavour to lessen these evils. It is, however, certain that no legislative enactment could be so framed as to prevent those who are ignorant from placing reliance on quacks, and it would not be easy to interdict the swallowing of their pills and potions ; but though legislative authority may not have either the right or power directly to suppress quackery, it need not give it sanction and support, as is now done.

It is hoped that ere very long the whole question of medical legislation will be brought before Parliament by Mr. Warburton, when an opportunity will occur to frame such legislative enactments as may be practically beneficial. The Association, in the mean time, may be employed in calm and philosophical inquiry into the nature of the evils, their extent and remedies, by which means they may be enabled, at the proper season, to render valuable

aid in legislating upon this subject. The Council, therefore, advise that a Committee of members be appointed at this Anniversary, to consider the nature, extent, and evils of quackery, and to report on the same, with a view of devising such corrections as the exposition thus made may indicate.

SECTIONS OF MEMBERS.

The Council consider it desirable on every recurring Anniversary, not only to review the past, but also to look forward to the future; and endeavour to ascertain whether any further improvement can be effected in the existing organization of the Association. Acting on this principle, they are led to submit to the consideration of the meeting whether some good effect may not arise from dividing the Association into sections for the prosecution of particular departments in medicine. As the question of vaccination is at this time exciting considerable interest, a section of members may be appointed to whom the replies to the queries of the Council may be sent, and the whole subject referred to them for illustration; and if in this instance the arrangement be found to work well, sections on other branches of medical science may at a future day be appointed.

REPORT OF PROVINCIAL MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

The Committee appointed three years ago to draw up a Report on the state of Provincial Medical Schools, have been hitherto unavoidably prevented accomplishing the task assigned to them. Mr. Hetling's protracted illness incapacitated

him from pursuing the investigation as he had intended, and the lamented death of that gentleman, who was amongst the earliest and most zealous of our members, has made it necessary to assign that work to other hands. The Council consider that in having prevailed upon Mr. Turner, of Manchester, to finish the work which was commenced by their deceased and respected associate, they have ensured the concurrence of all in the propriety of their choice; and they have every reason to expect that the report will be finished so as to be published in the seventh volume of the *Transactions*.

CONCLUSION.

The Council now resign the important trust consigned to them at the last anniversary to those from whom they received it; and they venture to express a hope that during the period which has elapsed since the last Anniversary, they may be found to have laboured with zeal and diligence in the discharge of the important duties that devolved upon them. It is only by such means that they can expect to have their exertions crowned by the approbation of the members at large—an approbation which they are at all times anxious to deserve.

To conclude—The Council conceive it is not irrelevant to remind each member of the implied engagement which he enters into when joining this Association, to forward the enlightened objects for which it was instituted. These objects are dignified and ennobling, and if pursued with ardour and perseverance, must ultimately enlarge the boundaries

of knowledge, elevate the character of medical men in the community, lessen the sufferings of humanity, and thus confer a blessing upon mankind.

CHARLES HASTINGS, } Secretaries to the
J. P. SHEPPARD, } Association.

Dr. Macartney, of Dublin, proposed the adoption of the Report, and after having eulogized the talent and ability with which it was drawn up, said there was one point in the Report to which he should venture to hold an opposite opinion. In the course of his experience, and while being examined before Committees of the House of Commons, he had reason to be of opinion that quackery ought to be visited with most severe legal punishment, or at the least to be made equally penal with the crime of obtaining money under false pretences. He believed the Legislature possessed the power to cause its suppression if they would only exert it.

Dr. George Gregory, of London, seconded the resolution, and it having been put by the Chairman, was unanimously approved and adopted.

Professor Kidd, of Oxford, then moved, and Mr. Tudor, of Bath, seconded the following resolution—

That the thanks of the meeting be given to Dr. Boisragon, the retiring President, and that he be appointed a permanent Vice-President of the Society.

Dr. Shute, of Gloucester, here made a few observations, in which he intimated that the conduct of the Council had not been sufficiently decisive with

respect to the New Poor Law Bill ; but the Chairman reminded him that this was not the proper time to discuss the merits of the Poor-Law question, and he must therefore request it might not be introduced at this stage of the proceedings. He could not, however, again sit down without remarking that there was no one point on which he was more certain than that every practicable endeavour had been made by the Association to remedy the evils of the present system of parochial medical relief. Dr. Shute again rose, and stated that there was another subject he wished to mention to them, which was the resolution under consideration. No person could have a greater respect for Dr. Boisragon than himself, but he put it to them whether it would not be creating a jealousy in the minds of gentlemen of inferior rank in the profession, if they were to be deprived of all the honours and titles of the Association by the partiality displayed towards its more prominent members.

Dr. Hastings explained that it was the law of the Association to invest every retiring President with a permanent Vice-Presidency.

Dr. Kidd's motion was then put and carried by acclamation.

Dr. Boisragon, in returning thanks, regretted that his name should have been the cause of any interruption. He was convinced, from the good feeling which had always existed between himself and Dr. Shute, that no personal disrespect was meant to him by that gentleman, but that he had merely endeavoured to stop the progress of partiality. He (Dr. Boisragon) was as much exempt from selfish-

ness as any man ; but for his humble though disinterested exertions he had had the distinguished gratification of being rewarded by the honourable distinction whieh the Assoeiation last year conferred upon him ; and the manner in whieh this additional honour had been done him, demanded his warmest expressions of acknowledgment.

Dr. John Conolly said that if any thing was wanting to restore perfect unanimity to the meeting, it would be found in the resolution whieh he should have the honour of proposing to it ; which was—

That their most grateful thanks should be given to the Secretaries of the Assoeiation, Dr. Hastings and Mr. Sheppard, and that they be requested to continue their services.

As one of the Councel of the Association, he was well aware how mueh the welfare of the Soeiety, and the sueeess of the Anniversary Meetings, depended upon the judieious labours of that portion of the Council residing at Worcester, and espeecially on the indefatigable industry and zeal of the Seeretaries. He knew that it had been objected to these meetings, that the members thus met together were too mueh oecupied in praising one another ; but this objection might be made to any society holding occasional meetings, siuee it was only on those occasions that they could publiely express their sense of unquestionable services. It would ill beeome them, meeting only once in the year, to be deterred by any fear of obloquy from giving utterance to the warmest feelings of the heart towards those whose qualities endearecd them to all

by whom they were known. Nor should the measure of services like those of their valued *Founder*, be alone estimated by what was now seen of the benefits of the Association ; each year added to its extent, and to its means of doing good. He had that morning, in his journey with some friends to the splendid city in which he addressed them, passed the humble source of the river Thames. From seven pure springs arose that important stream ; at first a mere rivulet, stealing its quiet course through peaceful meadows, overshadowed by the branches of venerable trees, now and then meeting with obstacles which revealed its brightness, and by and by glancing more broadly in the rays of the sun. Then they lost sight of it; but they well knew, that long after it had passed away from their view, it became a mighty river, bearing on its bosom, to and from the sea, much of the wealth and much of the power of this great empire. Such, it even then occurred to him, was the progress of man himself, but especially when associated with others for any good purpose. Such was, and such would be, the course of the Association ; at first producing small effects, but gradually enlarging in design and power, and, long after all who now were active in it had disappeared from the scene, continuing to bear on its bosom valuable truths for the benefit of their successors and of mankind : and when those who followed them looked back to the early history of the Association, to what name would they turn their regards with more gratitude and admiration than to that of Dr. Hastings. Let no member, therefore, be reluctant to join in a sincere and honest expres-

sion of feelings, no less honourable to them than to the object of such feelings ; and let the vote of thanks to the Secretaries be regarded not as a common-place compliment, but as a tribute well earned, and cheerfully, and gratefully, and most cordially paid.

Mr. Crosse, of Norwich, seconded the resolution, which was carried with vehement cheering.

Mr. Spender, of Bath, moved, and Mr. Crang, of Timsbury, seconded the next resolution, proposing—

That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Council of the past year, and that they be requested to continue their services, with the following additional members, and that they be empowered to add to their number :—Farnham Flower, Esq., Surgeon, Chilcompton ; Robert Bickersteth Esq., Surgeon, Liverpool ; Thomas Blackburn, Esq., Surgeon, Liverpool ; Samuel McCulloch, Esq., Surgeon to the Workhouse and Fever Hospital, Liverpool ; Hugh Neill, Esq., Surgeon, Liverpool ; John Bevan, Esq., Surgeon, Liverpool ; Henry Wood, Esq., Surgeon, Bath ; R. Fitzwilliam De Barry Barry, M.D., Torquay ; J. W. Ingleby, Esq., Surgeon, Birmingham ; J. H. Walsh, Esq., Surgeon, Worcester ; Edward Morris, Esq., Surgeon, Worcester ; Henry Cartwright, Esq., Surgeon, Torquay ; Richard Barnett, Esq., Surgeon, Stourport ; John Greening, Esq., Surgeon, Worcester.

Dr. Forbes, of Chichester, moved, and Mr Kitson, of Bath, seconded the next resolution, proposing—

That the thanks of this meeting be given to Dr. Otto, for his interesting communication on the Medical Topography of Copenhagen ; and that the following gentlemen be appointed honorary corresponding members of this Association :—

RUSSIA : F. C. Markus, M.D., Chief Physician to the Galitzin Hospital, Moscow, Counsellor of State, Knight of the order of St. Anne and St. Wolodmir. Sir George Lefevre, M.D., Physician to the British Embassy, St Petersburgh.

SWEDEN AND NORWAY : D. Holst, M.D., Professor of Medicine in the Royal Frederiek's University, Christiana.

DENMARK : C. Otto, M.D., Professor of Pharmaeology and Forensie Medicine, in the University of Copenhagen.

AUSTRIA : Burkard Eble, M.D., Military Surgeon, Librarian of the Josephine Academy, Vienna.

HOLLAND : J. L. Sehroeder Van der Kolk, M.D., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the University of Utrecht.

FRANCE : E. C. A. Louis, M.D., Physician to La Pitie, &c., Paris. M. Andral, M.D., Professor to the Faculty of Medicine, Paris.

ITALY : Carlo Francisco Bellingeri, M.D., President of the Medical Faculty in the University of Turin, &c. Maurizio Bufalini, M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine at the Hospital Santa Maria, Florenee.

PORTUGAL : Antonio Jose de Lima Leitao, M.D., Physician to the Hospital San Lazaro, at Lisbon.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : John C. Warren, M.D., Professor of Anatomy and Surgery, Harvard University, Boston. Robley Dunglison, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica, &c., Jefferson College, Philadelphia.

EAST INDIES : W. B. O. Shaughnessy, M.D., Professor of the Institutes of Medicine in the Medieal College, Calcutta.

BRAZILS : Luis Vicente De Simoni, M.D., Secretary of the Imperial Academy of Medicine of Rio Janeiro.

MEXICO : Guillermo Schiede, M.D., Member of the Academy of Medicine, Mexico.

AUSTRALIA: E. C. Hobson, M.D., Naturalist to the Colony of Van Diemen's Land, Hobart Town.

Mr. Godfrey, of Bath, moved, and Dr. Proud Johnson, of Shrewsbury, seconded the following resolution, which was agreed to—

That the President, Vice-Presidents, Dr. Forbes, and Dr. Conolly, be a Committee, to whom the several essays sent in to the Secretaries, on the subject of the Thackeray prize, be referred for adjudication.

Dr. Shute, of Gloucester, moved, and Dr. Holme, of Manchester, seconded the next resolution—

That the Poor Law Committee be re-appointed to watch the further progress of the subject through Parliament, and to suggest to the Council from time to time such measures as may appear to them necessary, to meet the circumstances as they arise; and that Mr. Rumsey, of Chesham; Mr. Ceeley, of Aylesbury; Mr. Addison, of Malvern; Mr. Toogood, of Bridgewater; and Mr. Yeatman, of Frome, form that Committee.

Dr. Hastings thought that as an imputation of supineness had been thrown out against the Council and the former Poor-Law Committee, it was his duty to state in a few words what had been done during the year. In the first place, the petition which had been agreed to at the last Anniversary Meeting, had been sent to Parliament, and he was happy to say that the prayer of that petition, asking for a Committee of Inquiry, had been granted. He was also glad to be enabled to state that one of the

Assistant Commissioners had given evidence in favour of almost every suggestion emanating from this Association last year. Mr. Serjeant Talfourd had also been applied to, and had promised by every means in his power to lend his powerful advocacy in the House of Commons towards mitigating the evils of the present system of parochial medical relief. And, lastly, the Council finding it desirable to employ a delegate to urge their opinions with respect to that bill before the Poor-Law Committee, had appointed the indefatigable Mr. Farr to that post, who would be happy to receive suggestions from any gentleman who might feel disposed to forward them.

It was afterwards announced that Mr. Farr's address was No. 8, Grafton Street, Fitzroy Square ; and that any communication would be received there, or by Mr. Churchill, medical bookseller, Princes Street, Soho.

Mr. Soden, of Bath, brought forward the subject which had been mentioned by Dr. Johnstone, of Birmingham, at the preceding Anniversary relative to members compounding for their subscriptions by the payment of ten guineas. He said that this was a question which required mature deliberation, and there were many members who were disposed to take a different view of it from that which was entertained by Dr. Johnstone : he thought it therefore desirable, in that gentleman's absence, to defer the question, and he would move—

That the subject be postponed to the next Anniversary.

This was seconded by Dr. Win. Conolly, of Cheltenham, and carried.

Dr. Cowan, of Reading, in moving the following resolution, stated that he fully agreed with the learned Dr. Macartney, who had stated at the commencement of the evening's proceedings, that quackery could be at least restricted, if not wholly prevented, if the Government would only cease to hold out rewards for it by stamp and advertisement duties, which, at present, acted as a substitute for medical knowledge. No stamps should be issued to protect such medicines, nor any advertisement allowed, but in the case of such as had previously received the sanction of a regularly constituted body of the profession. He begged to move—

That the Central Council be empowered to form a section to consider the nature, extent, and evils of quackery, and to report on the same at the next annual meeting.

Mr. Bally, of Bath, seconded the resolution.

Dr. Barlow thought it advisable, instead of forming Committees promiscuously, or without previously having the consent of the persons who were intended to compose them, that the selection should be left to their worthy Secretary, who was best qualified to know who were able and willing to serve.

Dr. John Conolly very much regretted that the Association should be forced, as it seemed to him to be, to entertain this question, in consequence of its having been commented upon by a portion of the medical press. Concerning the mischief and villainy of quackery, there could be but one

opinion among honest medical men ; but he could not suppose there was any reflecting person who really believed that any act of the legislature could enforce, or that the wit of man could devise, effectual remedies for suppressing or preventing it. Quackery took so many forms, that it was impossible to define it ; and the public, profoundly ignorant of medicine, are led continually to have recourse to quackery, in some shape or other, notwithstanding all that regular practitioners might do to put it down. By noticing quackery, therefore, and going in form before Parliament to complain of it, the members of the Association would be merely shewing a feeling of irritation, without effecting any good. The better course for the Association would be, steadily to continue its useful career ; giving encouragement to the investigation of all branches of medical enquiry, and patiently waiting until the public were sufficiently instructed to know that the principles of therapeutics were only to be safely carried into practice by men of good professional education.

Dr. Hastings thought it desirable something should be done, if it were only to satisfy those members who were so strenuous in requesting that a Section should be formed for the purpose.

Dr. Barlow agreed with Dr. Conolly in thinking the suppression of quackery to be impracticable ; but still he thought the present was a harmless proceeding, and would satisfy many of their members.

After some further conversation it was thought desirable to pass the resolution, leaving the appointment of the Section to the Secretaries and Worcester Council.

Dr. Hastings then observed that the next resolution would require very deep consideration. He had received a communication from the Southern Branch at Salisbury expressing dissatisfaction at their pecuniary allowance from the Parent Society, and stating that if those payments were even increased two-fold it would not be too much, and would likewise, in the same ratio, be productive of extended benefits to the Parent Society. He (Dr. Hastings) considered this statement to be decidedly wrong in a pecuniary point of view. If they looked to the original laws they would find that the guinea subscription was intended as a payment for the volume of *Transactions*. The members of the Southern Branch had received 188 volumes in this way, and had only paid 110*l.* in return, thus leaving a considerable balance against them. The accession of branches, in a pecuniary point of view, was not beneficial to the Society ; as the members had thus increased, the number of the *Transactions* to be printed had also increased from 900 to 1250, and the printing and the coloured drawings were necessarily very expensive. He would then leave it to them to consider how far they could fall in with the views of the Southern Branch.

Dr. Malden observed that it was a very disagreeable duty to deny assistance to any part of their Association ; but they must remember that as they were a species of warm-blooded *crustacea*, invested with the most extraordinary powers of re-production of limbs, supposing a remote joint turned round upon the central limb, and demanded more nutriment than could be conceded, the same retort

could be made which had been used by Menenius Agrippa when the poor of Rome thought they were about to be starved in the city—"Tell them the story of the belly and the members." He concluded by moving a resolution—

That the demands of the Southern Branch cannot be conceded.

Dr. Streeten seconded the resolution.

It being suggested that some of the members of the Southern Branch might probably be in attendance on the following day, the resolution was postponed till that time.

It was then moved by Mr. Mortimer, of Clifton, and seconded by Mr. Yeatman, of Frome—

That Liverpool be the place of meeting next year, and that Dr. Jeffreys be the President-elect; which was unanimously agreed to.

Dr. Jeffreys, of Liverpool, returned his sincere thanks for the great honour they had done him and the profession at Liverpool, by selecting that place for their meeting.

Moved by Dr. Blakemore, of Bath, and seconded by Mr. Hebb, of Worcester—

That Dr. Symonds, of Bristol, be requested to deliver the Retrospective Address at the Anniversary Meeting of 1839.

Mr. Dodd, of Chichester, in moving the next resolution, said—I rise to make a proposition to this meeting, for which I hope and believe they have been favourably prepared by the printed circulars

which all the members of this Association have received. In moving the expediency of forming a section for the particular purpose of studying the subject of small-pox and vaccination, I feel confident that the events of the past year, when that dreadful scourge has been epidemic in most parts of the kingdom, will have strongly influenced you all to desire that more light should be thrown upon this intricate and important subject. It would ill become me to make myself prominent on this occasion, when men, much my seniors and superiors, acknowledge themselves but learners; but when all come forward as pupils, it little matters who holds the book, and I confess it is a matter of great pleasure and encouragement to me to see those who have for many years been engaged in this important subject, now offering themselves freely in forwarding the great object of science, and contributing, with a generous zeal, their stock of knowledge towards the general fund, and for the further eliciting of truth. I trust that this example of candour and liberality, will not be lost upon us, comparatively, the junior members of the same liberal profession. I cannot here also pass unnoticed the kindness and liberality of the army and navy medical departments: they have expressed their willingness to further this inquiry, by the communication of any information on their respective departments which may be desirable; and I have already to thank them for valuable assistance. The plan which I would propose for the organization of the section, is briefly this:— That a certain number of medical men should unite their labours in the investigation

of the different branches of the subject of small-pox and vaccination ; that the results of their enquiries shall be digested into one general report by the Secretary, and read at the ensuing annual meeting, or published in the *Transactions* of the Association. I am happy to be able to say that there is no lack of willing labourers, since, within these few days, several of our members have signified their readiness to co-operate. My object in proposing the formation of this section is two-fold ; first, it has long appeared to me that the general state of vaccination in this country was lamentably defective, and loudly called for the interference of the legislature ; and, secondly, I think that upon a well digested and efficient plan of co-operation among the members of this Association, a vast mass of important facts may be collected and brought to bear upon a subject where, confessedly, much is to be learned, and with every part of which, the happiness and welfare of mankind is closely involved. Upon each of these two points I must beg your indulgence while I say a few words.

I shall not now enter upon the general question of the merits of vaccination as a prophylactic ; neither, on the subject of legislative interference, am I prepared to recommend any specific measure for the adoption of the Association ; this will form part of the duty of the proposed section ; but I must state to you a few facts, indicative of the necessity for taking this matter deeply into consideration. I have this year been in correspondence with the medical men of several of the principal towns of England, and from almost all of them I have

learned,—first, that small-pox has prevailed lately to a very considerable extent; some of them state that it is scarcely ever entirely absent from their neighbourhood, and that its occurrence after vaccination is become very frequent: secondly, that though the credit of vaccination stands high, and though the educated classes are constant in their applications for it, yet that the lower classes are often exceedingly dilatory in bringing their children forward, even when the operation is gratuitously performed: thirdly, that gratuitous vaccination is performed to a very various extent in different parts of the country; in some places not at all as a system, and in others far from being so general as the state of the population demands: fourthly, that vaccination is frequently performed by non-medical persons: fifthly, that inoculation of the small-pox is, in some parts, performed to a considerable extent, not by medical men, but by ignorant persons of the lower class, who take advantage of the defective state of the laws, to fill their pockets at the expence and imminent risk of the public. Several practitioners, in their correspondence with me, refer the appearance of the small-pox in their neighbourhood, entirely to the cases in this manner inoculated; and I may state that I have ascertained that nearly two hundred were last year inoculated in Chichester and its vicinity.

With regard to the apathy of the parents in the lower classes, I have to state further that it is strikingly illustrated by the fact, that on an alarm of small-pox being near them, they very frequently bring their whole families to be vaccinated together

for the first time ; shewing that the operation had been entirely neglected during the increase of the families, the children being arrived at an advanced age before it is resorted to. Now the evil of this is obviously most grievous. Besides the risk of small-pox which the child has endured hitherto, vaccination is thus adopted at an age much less favourable than infancy, and much more liable to those numerous little accidents which so frequently interfere with its progress and efficacy. It is the general opinion, I believe, that the age most favourable for vaccination is from three months to six months. The season of dentition is thus avoided, and the greater liability of having the vesicles scratched or broken in the ages after dentition, is obviated. Now to shew how little this principle is acted on at present, of six hundred and seventy-one cases of vaccination, I found that not quite one hundred were under six months, and only one hundred and eighty-nine were under a twelvemonth : of these cases, then, about five hundred, or five-sixths of the whole, were vaccinated at an age the least favourable for the operation, and we may therefore calculate, that in a large proportion, by accident or otherwise, the proper and protective course of the operation was interfered with. Should it be found upon enquiry that the experience of other surgeons tallies with mine, will not this alone be a fully sufficient reason for attempting some public measure for better regulating the practice of vaccination ? If we want further proof of the neglect of vaccination, we find it in the numbers of cases of small-pox occurring in unvaccinated persons, when that disease becomes epidemic. If due means were

exercised to diffuse the blessings of vaccination as universally as they ought to be, we should have few, if any, cases left to the unmitigated fury of the pestilence: whereas we know that of the entire cases of small-pox, those occurring in unvaccinated persons generally bear a very large proportion, even in the present day. This surely ought not to be, now that we have known, and had the opportunity of appreciating, the value of vaccination for upwards of thirty years. It was, as you well know, the fond hope of the great discoverer of vaccination that the extermination of small-pox was not only possible but probable; and though the experience of late years has entirely damped this hope, yet I believe I am fully borne out by fact, in saying that we may advance far, very far, beyond our present state of security, by the adoption of proper precautions; in short, I am convinced that if we may not hope for its extermination, we may certainly keep it in check: if the monster cannot be destroyed, he may be effectually chained. I am informed by Professor Hecker, of Berlin, that small-pox, since the general and systematic adoption of re-vaccination, is almost unknown in Prussia, except as a mild and insignificant disease. From Professor Holst, of Christiania, I find that in Norway this disease was for fourteen years after the introduction of vaccination entirely unknown, so that for many years the professor of medicine did not think it necessary to lecture upon it; and that country is now, on account of a recent visit from it, following the example of Prussia in establishing a regular system of re-vaccination. All countries acknowledge the

value of vaccination as a preventive in many cases, and as a powerful check upon the virulence of small-pox in almost all others ; and when the laws which regulate its influence shall have been investigated, the defects in our present system of operation discovered, and the proper course clearly laid down and thoroughly acted upon, I doubt not that at any rate we may stand as well as we see that other countries do : in fact, it cannot be considered otherwise than a disgrace to us that this country, in which the great prophylactic discovery originated, should be so far behind others in the practical application of it. How does shame reflect upon us as a nation for the folly of having hitherto left ourselves exposed to the attacks of this enemy, without any adequate public measures of precaution or defence. In Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Prussia, Russia, Austria, in fact, in almost all the principal continental states of Europe, legislative enactments render vaccination compulsory. They also limit the practice of the operation to regularly educated practitioners ; and to insure as far as possible the due and proper performance of it, every vaccinating surgeon is required to report the particulars of each case to a person appointed for that purpose. What is the case in this country ? The only encouragement given by government to vaccination, the only check provided by it against the fearful irruptions of the torrent, is the National Vaccine Institution, whose influence, except for the mere supply of virus, is entirely limited to the metropolis. No rewards, no encouragements, and, still more, no compulsory measures are employed to act against the natural apathy of

those multitudes who will not look forward for their own security and that of their families. Then, again, vaccination may be performed by any one, however ignorant and incompetent ; and hundreds, indeed I may safely say thousands, are annually vaccinated in this way, by persons who know nothing of the difficulties likely to occur in the progress of the full protective development. Moreover, the only preventive to the wilful spreading of small-pox itself, is an Act which enables you to indict as a nuisance the person who exposes the infectious patient, therefore, absolutely not interfering at all with the mischievous practice of inoculation itself. I may, however, sincerely congratulate this meeting and the country at large upon the information which I have lately received from Dr. Gregory, that the late irruption of small-pox has called the attention of our Legislature to this subject, and that steps are about to be taken for the remedying of the present evils. Here we have an additional inducement to exert ourselves in forwarding the views of government, by lending our aid in detecting the errors of the present system, and in discovering and pointing out the corrections that are discernible.

I must now be permitted to say something upon the objects of the proposed section under the head of science. And here, if I were to attempt to enter fully upon the several bearings of this vast subject, I must necessarily discuss topics of considerable difficulty, and in the present state of our knowledge, many still involved in the mists of obscurity, and should be compelled to detain you longer than would be desirable. I shall therefore only briefly

allude to a few of the most important subjects which will come under the consideration of the section, and endeavour to shew how beneficially the proposed system of enquiry may be expected to work under the fostering auspices of this Association. It is too much the prejudice both of the medical profession and of the public, that on the subject of so apparently simple an operation as vaccination, the whole of its bearings are pretty clearly understood, and that there is little more to be learned. But to point out the dangerous fallacy of such a view of the case, I would only request attention to the following statement. Where we dread the incursion of so formidable a foe as small-pox, and when a protection offers itself to us in vaccination, it is of course an object of the greatest interest to have some means of satisfying our minds that the protection is complete, that the remedy has been efficiently and effectively administered, and that as far as its protective properties go, we have reason to be satisfied that they are fully exercised in our behalf. Now, a criterion of this kind is still a desideratum. I fear that at present we possess no permanent sign as an infallible proof of the full and protective action of vaccination having taken place in the system. The only sign that has hitherto been relied on, is the scar which has been left upon the arm after the operation. Upon the appearance which this presents, the opinion of security is entirely grounded in the army and navy, and indeed we may say generally. It remains yet to be proved how far my observations are correct; but as far as they have gone hitherto, they lead me

to the conclusion that this mark is by no means deserving of our full confidence. Of fifty-seven cases which I examined last year, which had been fully exposed to the contagion of small-pox and had escaped, only six bore perfect marks, in fourteen the marks were slightly defective, in thirty very imperfect, and in seven there was no mark at all. In seventy-seven cases of small-pox after vaccination where the arms were examined, one bore a perfect mark, fourteen were slightly defective, forty-seven were very imperfect, and fifteen had no mark. Now, the comparison of these lists evidently shews something in favour of the cicatrix, as a criterion of safety, but by no means equal to what is desirable on a point where accuracy is of so much importance. Of the hundred and thirty-four cases just mentioned as exposed to the contagion of small pox after vaccination, and of which fifty-seven escaped, and seventy-seven failed, only seven shewed perfect marks, and of these one failed; twenty-eight more bore marks which we should be inclined to rely upon, though not quite perfect, and of these fourteen failed; while of seventy-seven, with very imperfect marks, thirty escaped, and of twenty-two with no mark at all, seven escaped. It is painful to shake the foundations of our confidence,—to find that hollow and unisonnd upon which we were reposing in security; but the way to rest in safety is to look the truth in the face, and when a part of the building is defective, to endeavour to replace it with a material more durable and more worthy of our confidence. The question then of the characters, the progress, and the durability of the vaccine cicatrix, I would hope

to see investigated by the proposed section. This question, however, which I have alluded to only as affording one palpable instance of what there is yet to be learned in the general enquiry on vaccination is but one of the least among a great number of interest and importance which must occupy the attention of the section. You all know that since the occurrence of small-pox after vaccination, a theory has been started, and pretty generally received, that the protecting power of vaccination wears out in the course of time, and consequently the renewal of its influence becomes necessary. Now, supposing this theory to be correct, what is the limit of the duration of the protective power, and after what interval does re-vaccination become necessary ? This matter is at present *sub judice*, or rather, it is answered only according to the judgment or caprice of each practitioner ; some fixing the term for a very short time, and others at seven, ten, fifteen, and twenty years. The Prussian Government has ordered that the army should be re-vaccinated every third year, and as a measure of extreme precaution this probably is well where it is practicable ; but this proceeding is not of course to be considered as pointing out the precise term of protective duration. Dr. Otto, of Copenhagen, states that only those vaccinated persons were attacked with small-pox whose vaccination had taken place five years previously. This statement, however, will not be borne out by the experience of this country. The difficulty in ascertaining correctly this law of the protective power is very great.

Of course we are arrested *in limine* till we have satisfactorily shewn what are the permanent as well as temporary signs of the true protective vaccination. This datum is essential before we can find a starting point from which to calculate. All the calculations, therefore, which have been hitherto made to ascertain the limit of the protective power must be received as only an approximation to the truth. Here then is a wide and fruitful field for research.

The proportion of the vaccinated which are unprotected, a question closely connected with the preceding, will form another enquiry. On this subject again we shall be compelled, in great measure, to commence *de novo*. If we allow, as I think we must, that the sign at present relied upon as indicative of true protective vaccination having taken place, I mean the cicatrix, is insufficient, we then can only rely upon those cases, the history of the progress of whose vaccination has been carefully recorded, in making our calculations of the question before us ; and the proportion of these cases will be, I fear, but small, particularly if I am informed correctly, that in one of the principal of our vaccine institutions, not more than one in twenty make their appearance after the operation, to verify its success. Casting out, then, all those cases of *variola post vacciniam*, of whose vaccination we have no authentic recorded histories, our means of ascertaining the proportion which the unprotected bear to the protected, are at present, I fear, very limited ; and here much may be expected only from the combined and persevering labours of a well appointed section.

When again I mention the question of the origin and nature of cow-pox, and the relation which it bears to small-pox and some other eruptive diseases, involving, as it does in a great degree, some of the enquiries on contagion, you will perceive that there is no lack of subject matter to occupy the attention of the section, or to justify you in its appointment. But here I have alluded to a part only of what demands investigation, both statistical and practical, connected with the great question of protection from small-pox. The view indeed opens as we proceed, we cannot as yet see its limit. We offer to launch ourselves upon an ocean of which the misty horizon only is discernible ; but we do it cheerfully ; we only ask your sanction, and request you to bid us God speed, and we enter upon it fearlessly, convinced that whether our frail bark reach the opposite shore or not, every treasure we raise from the depths will amply repay our labours, engaged as we are on an errand, than which the philanthropist cannot desire one offering a better opportunity for the exercise of his benevolence, or the scientific man for the good employment of his talents.—The following is the resolution—

That the following gentlemen, in conjunction with the former Committee, be a section to whom the replies to the queries of the Council on vaccination and small-pox shall be sent, and that the whole question be referred to them for illustration :— J. Baron, M.D., Chairman ; Dr. Conolly, of Cheltenham ; A. T. S. Dodd, Esq., of Chichester, Secretaries ; Dr. Gregory, Physician to the Small-Pox Hospital, London ; Dr. Kendrick, of Warrington ;

Dr. M'Crorie, of Liverpool; — Ellison, Esq., of Liverpool; J. P. Teale, Esq., of Leeds; — Loe, Esq., of Leeds; D. Noble, Esq., of Manchester; Dr. Shapter, of Exeter; — Greenhow, Esq., of Newcastle; R. T. Gore, Esq., of Bath; Dr. Engledew, of Portsmouth; Dr. S. Cox, of Edinburgh; Dr. Heatheote, of Rotherham; R. Nunn, Esq., of Colchester; Dr. Streeten, of Worcester; Dr. Ogier Ward, of Shrewsbury; Dr. Goldie, of York; Dr. Brown, of Sunderland; F. Ryland, Esq., of Birmingham; J. G. Crosse, Esq., of Norwich; Dr. Bullar, of Southampton; Dr. Conolly, of Warwick; C. H. Hebb, Esq., of Worcester; Dr. Malden, of Worcester; Dr. Evans, of Gloucester; and that they be empowered to add to their number.

Dr. Shapter, of Exeter, seconded the resolution, which was agreed to.

Dr. Hastings announced that he had received nearly one hundred replies to the queries issued by the Committee on the subject of the small-pox, and he had no doubt that on the receipt of the whole of the replies, much valuable information would be elicited.

Dr. Gregory mentioned the exertions now making in France and other foreign countries, to extend the bounds of knowledge relating to small-pox and vaccination. If active measures were not taken by this Association, England would be superseded by foreigners in this branch of medical science.

After the transaction of other necessary business the Meeting adjourned till the following day.

MEETING HELD AT THE LECTURE ROOM OF THE BATH
LITERARY INSTITUTION, THURSDAY, JULY 19TH.

At half-past twelve o'clock on Thursday the members again met at the Lecture Room of the Institution, when various interesting facts were elicited. Dr. Gregory, of London, produced some papers charged with new "points" of vaccine lymph, which he distributed to the gentlemen near him; also a small bottle, with a finely closed stopper, well adapted for the purpose of preserving the vaccine fluid perfectly energetic for a long time; Dr. Gregory stated that any gentleman wishing to procure a supply of the "point," might get any quantity by applying to the Physician of the Small-Pox Hospital, London.

The general business commenced by Dr. Barlow, on the motion of Dr. Hastings, being called to the chair.

A paper on a "peculiar affection of the uvula" was announced, by the Secretary, as having been received that morning from Mr. Thompson, of Whitehaven.

Dr. Johnstone Aitkin, of Poole, read a communication respecting the use of the sea plant called *Fucus esculentus*, or "tangle," instead of the more expensive and less suitable gum bougies, in cases of stricture of the rectum and urethra. He had used it successfully in his own practice, and he laid many specimens of it upon the Council table.

It grew of various thicknesses, from that of a small quill to one inch and a half in diameter, and of various lengths, from a few inches to several feet.

The thanks of the meeting were unanimously given to the Authors of these communications, and they were directed to be printed in the seventh volume of *Transactions*.

Dr. Hastings announced that the Report of the Provincial Schools had not yet been prepared by Mr. Turner, but that gentleman would make every exertion to get it ready for the next volume of *Transactions*.

Dr. T. Boisragon, on being called upon to mention to the Association a small work which he was about to publish illustrative of osteology, rose and said,—“Mr. President, I must apologize for trespassing upon the time of the Association for so trivial a purpose as that for which I have now the honour of addressing the members. It was not my intention, Sir, originally, to have obtruded myself on their notice, more than merely to have mentioned privately to a few individuals, what were my views in publishing some lithographic drawings of osteology; being, however, called upon by my kind friend, our worthy Secretary, Dr. Hastings, to put them before the members publicly, I take the liberty, with your permission, of stating shortly what I propose to offer to the public, and my reasons for mentioning it now to the members of this Association. My intention then, Sir, is to

publish what may be called a Sketch of Osteology, being a series of lithographie engravings, representing one view of each of the prineipal bones of the body, upon tinted paper, relieved with white, to imitate chalk drawings. The number of plates will be five, and consist of the following drawings, viz:— the three bones of the leg, the three bones of the arm, the pelvis, the lumbar, dorsal, and eervical vetebræ, the atlas and dentata, the elaviele, the seapula, three of the ribs, the hand and foot, the inferior maxilla, and two views of the base of the skull, one of the interior and one of the exterior. Here I may seem to have departed from my original plan of giving only one view of each bone; but two views of the skull I considered absolutely necessary, even in an outline of osteology, to the proper understanding of so difficult a part of this branch of the scienee, as the cranium. I have not given views of the small bones comprising it, separately, because one of each would not have been suffieient, and it is almost impossible to understand their structure without having them frequently in the hand. I am aware it may be asked, if the students are expeeted to have the bones themselves, why shoule they have these drawings? In answer to this, I say that although students should have the small bones of the cranium disartieulated, they should also have drawings such as these, in order to understand correctly their juxta position, and which it is very difficult to understand without either another skull or drawings; these will however, I flatter myself, supply the place of an extra skull, and save that expense. Such a mode of studying I have found very useful.

My chief object in publishing but one drawing of the principal bones is, that students may have an opportunity of procuring finished drawings of bones of the size of life as a sort of memorandum to assist them while reading, containing the most comprehensive view of osteology compatible with the most moderate expense, authentic plates of the same from the early works of Albinus down to the superb modern publications of Cloquet and Quain, being of too costly a character to fall within the means of junior students. This twofold object I consider to be gained by my having, in the one view taken, always selected that which presented the greatest number of important points at once, and thus saving the expense of an extra plate, which expense I was fearful, by entering more extensively into the subject, would be incurred to an extent greater to the student than the advantage gained. It is obvious that every student should see the bones themselves in order to get a correct knowledge of them; and having done this, the plates now presented to the public will, I conceive, be quite sufficient to refresh the memory upon all the important points; added to which, I propose upon each page opposed to the drawing, to give an outline of the same, with the names of the parts upon it, so as to render the work as complete as possible. The better to ensure the cheapness of the publication, and the correctness of the plates, I have undertaken the lithography myself, from drawings which I made from the best specimens I could procure from the Anatomical Museum at Edinburgh, and with the loan of which I was kindly

favoured by Dr. Monro. I have been particularly careful to represent even the texture as nearly as I could of the different parts of the bone, as e. g. the hardness of some, the polish of those parts opposed to friction, and the diaphanous appearance of others, &c. Lastly, in order that I might run as little risk as possible in this undertaking, I have ventured to name it to the Association, in order that should any member think of taking a copy, he might favour me with his order and name, which would considerably diminish the expense of publication, and thereby better enable me to publish at a cheaper rate for the use of students. The price of each plate, Sir, will, I fear, be 1s. 6d., including references; less than that would, be barely sufficient to defray the expenses."

A discussion next took place between Dr. Gregory, of London, Mr. Barrett, of Sherborne, and other gentlemen, on the subject of small-pox, which was brought to a close by the necessary reading of the Retrospective Address.

Dr. Malden, of Worcester, was then called upon to read the Address,* after which,

Dr. John Conolly said that in moving—

That the thanks of the meeting be given to Dr. Malden, and that the oration be printed, he was, he felt, only expressing the wish of those by whom he was surrounded, after listening to the very comprehensive and eloquent address which had been delivered to them. Those who knew Dr. Malden,

* See the next article.

were prepared to expect every thing that great professional acquirement, various and graceful learning, and enlightened and benevolent feelings, could contribute to make an oration estimable ; and although there must in so long a discourse be points on which the members held various opinions, he was sure they all felt anxious to convey to Dr. Malden their sense of the obligation he had conferred upon them by his valuable and admirable discourse.

Mr. Partridge, of London, seconded the resolution.

The request of the Southern Branch was then finally and maturely considered ; and it being ascertained that they were now in the possession of the greatest amount of assistance which could be prudently awarded to them, the following resolution was agreed to, after Mr. Crosse, of Norwich, had stated that the Eastern Branch of the Association found the appropriation of one-seventh of their payments to be more than sufficient for their liabilities—

That it is with regret that this meeting is obliged to refuse the request of the Southern Branch; but a larger allowance for expences than that settled by the Association at Cheltenham, cannot with prudence or propriety be conceded to the Branches, since agreeing to further deductions would cripple the resources of the Parent Association, and might ultimately bring its financial affairs into difficulty.

Dr. Couolly, of Cheltenham, read the Report of the Benevolent Fund Committee, as follows—

REPORT OF THE BENEVOLENT FUND.

The Central Committee for the Management of the Benevolent Fund of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, have much gratification in being able to state that the progress of the Charity, although not so rapid as its most ardent supporters might desire, is, notwithstanding, steadily increasing; and such is the confidence of the Committee in its ultimate complete success, that they have not hesitated to continue its operations to as great an extent as possible, under the firm conviction that so good a cause cannot fail in the end to secure the co-operation of all the members of the Association.

As will be seen by a reference to the Treasurers' accounts, annual subscriptions have been received during the past year to a larger amount than heretofore, and they have been made available to the relief of some very urgent cases of unavoidable misfortune among our professional brethren and their families.

The fund has now been in operation during two years; in the first year, as was stated in the report read last year at Cheltenham, *two* very urgent cases had been efficiently relieved; and during the last year the committee have had the satisfaction of affording relief to *four* cases which appeared to them to have strong claims on the charity.

In one case, recommended by the Bath Central Committee, a gentleman of unimpeachable character who had practised as a surgeon in New South Wales, fell into bad health, and was obliged to return to this country; his pecuniary means

being inadequate to his support, he was enabled by the slight help of *twenty pounds* at one time and *ten* at another, from this fund, added to the benevolent aid afforded him by the profession at Bath, to prolong his stay in that city (where he found great advantage from the mineral springs) until such time as there was a prospect of his health being re-established, and of his being able to return to New South Wales, and work out his own independence. In a second case, the small sum of ten pounds was added to a subscription to place the orphan son of a surgeon formerly practising at Cheltenham on the foundation in the London Orphan Asylum. In a third instance, five pounds was remitted to Norwich at the instance of Mr. Crosse and Mr. Johnson, to relieve the urgent distress of the aged widow of a medical man, who by the death of her husband was left totally unprovided for, and dependent upon the benevolent aid afforded her in that neighbourhood. A fourth case occurred very recently in Cheltenham. A highly respectable surgeon, a member of this Association, in the prime of life, and just beginning to have a tolerable practice in his profession, was cut off in a few days, by typhus fever, caught in the performance of his professional avocations, and has left a wife and seven children totally unprovided for. A subscription for their benefit has been entered into by the benevolent inhabitants of Cheltenham, to which *forty pounds* has been contributed from this fund. On all these occasions, the Committee have had deeply to regret the limited means at their disposal, as the urgency of the cases would have justified grants to a much larger amount, had

it been in their power to make them. The sums they have been able to contribute, doubtless will appear very small in amount for each case ; but the Committee have reason to believe that they were nevertheless of essential service. And it must be borne in mind, that by the rules and regulations of the Society, the *donation* fund cannot be touched for these purposes, and that it is only the annual subscriptions that are available for the relief of these cases, as well as for all the incidental annual expenses. It will be thus seen that the Committee have in some measure been compelled to anticipate in a small degree the subscriptions of the ensuing year, to relieve even the few cases they have mentioned ; and when they add that they have been under the necessity of refusing aid in several other cases which appearcd very deserving of it, they trust it will not be necessary to say another word in recommendation of this charity to the attention of the members of this Association. It is inconceivable how much good might be done, if each member would but consent to contribute even the small sum of five shilliugs annually to this admirable charity ; and there are few among us who could not spare this small sum ; whilst many others whom Providence has blessed with larger means, will doubtless contribute in proportion, and thus be the means of relieving many meritorious but unfortunate members of our profession from the pressure of unavoidable calamity.

The Committee feel it would be unjust when speaking of the increase of annual subscriptions this year in comparison with former ones, not to

mention with gratitude the benevolent contribution of 33*l.* 5*s.* from the ladies of Warrington and its vicinity, in addition to which a Local Committee has been organized in that town, and eight annual subscribers have been obtained ; thus affording an example well worthy of imitation, and shewing how much may be done by perseverance and well-directed efforts in the good cause. A very benevolent lady, Mrs. Stephenson of Worcester, has also most kindly remitted to the Treasurer, through Dr. Hastings, the sum of three pounds collected by her in small sums for the charity.

Since the Annual Meeting of last year, in addition to forming a Local Committee at Warrington, the Central Committee thought it their duty to distribute a circular to members of the profession, by means of the different Local Committees, stating the objects of the charity, what it had already effected, and what it would be capable of doing if it met with adequate support.

The Committee cannot conclude this report without beseeching every member of the Association to take the claims of the charity into their serious consideration. In every large town where there is not already a Local Committee in existence, it would be highly desirable that one should be immediately constituted ; and where Local Committees are already formed, it is equally desirable that they should act with energy and industry ; and by these means the Central Committee feel convinced that a fund will soon be established, alike honourable and beneficial to our profession, and a proud and lasting monument of the benefits derived from the formation of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association.

TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS OF THE BENEVOLENT FUND.

1837-8.

	<i>Receipts.</i>	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Donations	34	4	0			
Subscriptions.....		84	6	6			
					118	10	6
Balance in hand last year					115	3	0
					233	13	6
Disbursements as below					89	5	0
Balance in hand					£144	8	6

	<i>Disbursements.</i>	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Stationary, postage, and porterage	1	0	0			
Printer's bill		3	5	0			
					4	5	0
Charitable aid as per Report					85	0	0
					£89	5	0

Dr. Gregory recommended them to persevere, and said that a similar committee in the army which began in 1820 with means quite as small, could now boast a capital of 12,000*l.* in the funds, and an available fund of 380*l.* per annum.

Dr. Fox, of Bristol, moved that the report be received.

Dr. Heywood, of Blandford, seconded the motion.

Mr. Hare, of Leeds, said that in a similar committee in West York, there were no disbursements allowed till a capital of 2,000*l.* had been raised.

Dr. Connolly said that it was intended not to distribute the donations to this fund, but merely the annual subscriptions.

Dr. Ring, of Reading, suggested the formation of Local Committees to the Benevolent Fund, and promised to form one for his district.

Mr. Tudor, of Bath, moved, and Dr. Feild, of Worcester, seconded—

That the Committee appointed to watch over the interests of the profession be requested to continue their services.

Dr. Kidd, of Oxford, moved, and Mr. Flower, of Chilcompton, seconded--

That the thanks of the meeting be given to the Mayor and Corporation of Bath, the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution, and the Bath Horticultural Society, for the accommodation afforded by them to the Association on this occasion.

Dr. Pritchard, of Bristol, moved, and Mr. Estlin, of Bristol, seconded—

A vote of thanks to their worthy President, which having been briefly acknowledged, the meeting separated.

OBSERVATIONS ON QUACKERY,

ADDRESSED TO THE MEMBERS

OF THE

PROVINCIAL

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

BY CHARLES COWAN, M. D.,

Physician to the Reading Dispensary.

AT the Anniversary of the Association, held at Bath during the present year, (1838,) it will be seen, by reference to the Report, that the attention of the members was particularly directed to the important question of medical empiricism ; and, in consequence, a Committee was appointed for the purpose of investigating the evil, for diffusing information, and for devising the best means for its counteraction.

Too little time has elapsed for the presentation of any formal Report, but the subject is one of so urgent a nature, so intimately connected with the interests of the profession as a body, and with the welfare of the public at large, that the Chairman of

the Committee is most anxious that no unnecessary delay should take place,—and, with the consent of the Secretaries and the Council of Worcester, he ventures, in his individual capacity, to lay a brief statement of the question thus early before the members, for the purpose of exciting them, if possible, to active and united efforts; or, at all events, with the hope of eliciting so general an expression of their feelings and sentiments, as will enable the Committee to pursue their future labours with greater confidence and efficiency.*

Much prejudice and misapprehension, much apathy and indifference on the part of medical men themselves, have hitherto encumbered the question; but we would most earnestly request a calm and dispassionate perusal of the following statement, and a conscientious following out of the practical conclusions to which we hope it will give birth.

We deem it wholly unnecessary, when addressing professional readers, to enter into any lengthened details, either explanatory or descriptive of medical empiricism. The evil, alas! is too prevalent and too familiar, to need any such exposition on our part; we shall, therefore, merely cursorily allude to some of its more striking and important features.

That our privileges are grossly infringed, no one can reasonably deny; that the long and expensive education we are required to undergo, does not secure to us those advantages which we have a right to expect, is equally beyond dispute; and that

* I must express my obligations to my active and intelligent friend, Mr. George May, a member of the Committee, for many valuable suggestions on the subject of the present communication.

our medical corporations and all existing legislation fail to shield us from the aggressions and competition of the unqualified practitioner, of every kind and degree, are equally facts of which no doubt can be entertained. It is indeed a melancholy truth, as a very recent writer has eloquently expressed it, "that of all professions and occupations of life, the medical man's is the worst recompensed. Whilst others have their splendid rewards from the Government of the country,—whilst the clergyman sees before him the sacred mitre, the lawyer the venerable ermine, nay, even the political adventurer may grasp the highest honours of the State,—the medical man has no such *stimuli* to urge him on;—no resting place after a long career of industry;—too often bestowing blessings, health, and life around him, he sinks in unforgotten slumber to his grave."

It is also universally admitted that many lives are annually sacrificed, and much serious mischief inflicted, by the malpractices of ignorant empirics;—that the latter are even, to a certain extent, protected and encouraged by legislative enactments, and that they possess every facility, by advertisements, stamps, and other means, to work upon the credulity of the public mind;—that empiricism is a source of distinct emolument to Government, which thus practically extends to it its sanction;—that the actual situation of medical men is most anomalous and degrading, since they are liable to the same legal penalties as the quack, while they are subject to far greater restrictions in their practice. It will also be generally admitted that much benefit would accrue to the medical profession, and to the

public, were quackery suppressed, or even materially diminished, and that it would be most desirable, were such a result practicable, to combine our efforts for its accomplishment.

It is, then, self-evident that we agree as to the *facts*, and that our differences of opinion are connected with the *means* we would severally recommend, and the ideas we entertain with regard to the right of interference, and the probability of success. Many doubts have been expressed, and many objections advanced, in opposition to any attempt to suppress empiricism by the profession in its corporate capacity ; we shall, therefore, now proceed to consider in greater detail their nature and force, the removal of them being absolutely essential for our coinciding in the means to be afterwards recommended.

A very common remark is, that legislative enactments against empiricism infringe too much upon personal liberty, and that people must be left to do as they please, to quack themselves or not, as they think fit ; that if they are sufficiently foolish to believe the absurd pretensions of the empiric, we must trust to time and to the diffusion of information to convince them of their egregious stupidity. Now this, at first sight, appears very sensible and very liberal, but if accurately scrutinized, it will be found deficient in all that can render such an objection valuable.

And first, as to the *right of legislative interference*, we would observe that the question has long since been decided. The principle that the public health should, as far as possible, be provided for, and that those who tamper with it should be punished, is

consonant with the existing rights and privileges of every chartered medical body in Great Britain. It cannot, therefore, be a matter of dispute as to whether the principle of anti-empirical legislation is in accordance with the spirit of our institutions, or compatible with popular conviction, since Government has been allowed constantly to interfere from the very commencement of its attempts to legislate upon medical subjects, and the actual improved condition of the profession, faulty and imperfect as it is, must, in a great measure, be attributed to the protection which has thus been afforded. Besides, if it is desirable that Government should secure the means by which the public may be provided with qualified medical practitioners, is it not palpable that it is equally a duty to do all in its power to repress the malpractices of the unqualified? and if, as a profession, we now come forward and demand additional enactments from defence, pointing out the deficiencies of existing regulations, and defining the means by which the public may be additionally protected, surely we are only carrying out and perfecting the acts and intentions of our Legislators, only strengthening those barriers which, in their wisdom, they have thought proper for centuries to erect.

To suppose that the public would refuse to sanction any measures which had for their evident object to secure an abundant supply of able well-educated practitioners, and to protect the ignorant and weak-minded from the arts of death-dealing pretenders, is to disregard the evidence of the past, and to indulge in groundless assumption.

So early as the reign of Henry V, the expediency was felt of confining the practice of medicine to learned persons, for in a draught of an act of that date, it is provided that "no one shall use the mysterie of fysick under a penalty of forty pounds fine and imprisonment, unless he hath studied it in some University, and is at least bachelor in that science." In the earliest statute of Henry VIII, for the appointing of physicians and surgeons, it states that medicine and surgery were practised by ignorant persons, "to the high displeasure of God, great infamy of the faultry, and the grievous hurt of many of the king's legal people, more especially of *them that cannot discern the uncunning from the cunning;*" and the act goes on to impose a penalty of five pounds a month for illegal practice. Under Elizabeth, James I, Charles II, and their successors, various clauses for the same purpose were added, and they continue in force up to the present moment. In fact, no one can wade through the confused and voluminous statutes, of which we have cited but a very small specimen, without being struck with the reiterated efforts of Government to repress empirical practice; and we hope enough has been now advanced to satisfy the most incredulous that the suppression of quackery has for centuries been regarded as an object which justified and required legislative interference.

That Legislators *ought* to take care that the public health shall not suffer from public ignorance, might be argued on the simple ground that the national weal and the national health are intimately connected, and that it must ever be the duty of a really

liberal Government, to deprive the selfish and unprincipled of the power of pursuing their schemes of aggrandizement to the detriment of society at large. It might also with equal truth be urged, that the legal rights and privileges of the nationally recognised medical man, are as much entitled to national protection as any other rights and privileges whatever; and if any other argument be needful, it may be founded on the fact that the public are *not capable* of discriminating between the qualified and the unqualified practitioner, and should, therefore, be secured against the acts of the mercenary and designing, by those who profess to make the public health an object of legislative care.

But it is said, with apparent sincerity, that the people of this country will not submit to too much interference with personal liberty, and that they must be left to doctor themselves as they think fit. Now though we object to the principle involved in such a remark, yet, for the sake of brevity, we will admit the full force of the objection, since it is in no way applicable to the question immediately before us. We are not asking for a single additional restriction upon the personal liberty of the public in this respect, and it would be absurd to try to prevent any individual from using any means he might choose to employ for his own benefit; but surely we *are* justified in asking that the man who attempts to mislead and deceive shall be restricted by law,—that he who pretends to knowledge which he does not possess, who promises to perform what he knows he cannot accomplish, who puts forward statements and advises remedies which must *necessarily* prove

detrimental to those who are unable to detect the imposition, who avowedly lives upon the credulity and ignorance of his fellow creatures, and thrives at the expense of the general welfare, who openly infringes and sets at nought the privileges of those to whom the care of the public health has been consigned,—that we should demand the greatest possible restraint which the law can impose upon *such* an individual, so far from improperly interfering with personal liberty, is enforcing the very principle of liberty itself, viz., that no one shall be permitted to advance his selfish interests to the injury of those of the community at large. We do not legislate against men picking their own pockets, or cutting their own throats, but we do exert the utmost rigour of the law against the man who attempts to practise such acts upon the persons of others. Quacks ought to be considered in a precisely similar situation, as regards the law, with the additional aggravation, or, as they would rather say, advantage, of being enabled to pursue their avocation with a semblance of Government patronage, aided by a cheap and mercenary press. Such an objection is therefore untenable and inapplicable.

But it is agreed that, admitting the right of interference, it is of no use to address Government upon the subject, because the interests of the revenue are too deeply involved in the maintainance of the present system. This objection must not be slighted. Now we have taken considerable pains upon this point, and feel satisfied that exaggerated ideas prevail as to the real profits which Government derives from quack medicines.

The sources of revenue are the stamps, the advertisements, the licenses, the wrappers, and the patents. Let us proceed to consider them *seriatim*.

For the three preceding years, ending January 5th, 1838, the total amount of *stamp duty*, for Great Britain, on medicines of all descriptions, was as follows:—

	Amount.		No. of Stamps.
	£. s. d.		
1836	30,516 12	$5\frac{1}{2}$	..... 3,152,641
1837	31,376 12	$7\frac{1}{2}$	..... 3,313,140
1838	30,495 12	$11\frac{1}{2}$	..... 3,243,433

The average number of stamps may, therefore, be stated at 3,236,404, and the amount of the duty, 30,796*l.* 6*s.*; which gives to each stamp a value of rather more than twopence one farthing. Cattle medicines are not liable to duty, and only those cosmetics are stamped which pretend to some healing properties, as, for instance, Rowland's Kalydor. The annual Government profit upon medical stamps may, therefore, be accurately stated at 30,000*l.**

The duty upon *quack advertisements* forms the next most important source of revenue; and here

* The following is the tariff of duty upon every packet, box, bottle, phial, pot, or other inclosure:—

	s. d.		s. d.		s. d.
Not exceeding	1 0 .....		..... 0	$1\frac{1}{2}$	
Exceeding	1 0 and not exceeding		2 6	0 3	
.....	2 6		4 0	0 6	
.....	4 0		10 0	1 0	
.....	10 0		20 0	2 0	
.....	20 0		30 0	3 0	
.....	30 0		50 0	10 0	
.....	50 0 .....		..... 20 0		

again the gross amount has often been much overstated. The present rate of duty is 1s. 6d., and the following is the sum total for advertisements generally, for Great Britain, for the last three years :—

	Annual Amount.	No. of Stamps.
1836	£88,440	1,179,200
1837	98,336	1,311,146
1838	101,939	1,359,186

For the purpose of estimating the proportion of quaek advertisements to all others, we have caused them to be counted in the more extensively circulated provincial papers, and in some of the less reputable London journals, and find that out of 2000 of all descriptions, about 200, or one-tenth, are empirical. In Scotland the proportion is one-half less, though our materials have been less copious ; but as we wish to arrive at the maximum, we shall suppose empirical advertisements, to be one-tenth of the whole for Great Britain, which leaves a profit to Government certainly not exceeding 10,000*l.* per annum.

It has been imagined that newspaper proprietors are deeply interested in the continuance of the present system, and that they would powerfully oppose all attempts to abolish it. The fact really is, that the leading and most widely circulated journals of the metropolis insert very few quack advertisements, for the simple reason that the proprietors are not themselves vendors of patent medicines, and because they require cash for quack as well as for all other announcements ; the proprietors of these are, therefore, nearly, if not wholly, indif-

ferent to any measures that may be proposed for their discontinuance. It is chiefly in the provincial papers, and in the less influential and less esteemed London journals, that the quack advertises ; and the reason of his selecting these in preference, is, that the proprietors become joint-stock partners in his trade, and because he can forward his selfish purposes with an inconsiderable outlay of cash. In fact, the newspaper office becomes his shop, and the sale of the nostrums is often the sole security for the payment of advertisements, the proprietor persisting in zealously advertising as the only means of securing remuneration. Many have large stocks of the wretched trash on hand, which occasionally become valueless by the rapid sale of some more successful bait to public credulity. The quack of course then abandons his property, since, by claiming it, he would expose himself to an advertisement account.

Journals which are just commencing, or of very inferior circulation, not only insert puffs of the empiric on these terms, but deduct from the proceeds of sale only sufficient to meet the duty, and even this is occasionally paid by the newspaper proprietor himself, who seizes upon a quack advertisement as the only means of filling up his empty columns, and giving to his paper a factitious appearance of importance and wide circulation.

It is therefore evident that we cannot estimate the actual gains of newspapers by the gross number of quack advertisements ; and we have been assured by a very respectable provincial editor, that he does not believe that any of the influential conductors of

our journals would exert themselves, in the slightest degree, to prevent the abolition of these injurious announcements. We cannot leave this part of our subject without alluding to the fearful power which the quack, under such circumstances, wields in the public press : his expenses are often little more than nominal, while he secures the agency and interests of the newspaper proprietor in his behalf.

The third source of Government emolument is the *licence duty*, to which every vendor of patent medicines is liable, under a penalty of 20*l.* for each offence. So strictly does Government protect its own interests, that a penalty of 20*l.* is imposed upon any one who fraudulently removes, uses, sells, or buys a stamp which has once been made use of. The interests of the public and the profession are, in fact, far less efficiently protected than the paltry and disgraceful system we are denouncing.

The following is the scale of license duty :— Where the party resides within the limits of the London twopenny post, or within the city of Edinburgh, 2*l.* per annum ; within any other city or borough, or town corporate, 10*s.* ; at any other place in Great Britain, 5*s.* The total produce of such duties for the year ending the 5th of January, 1837, was 4,164*l.* 15*s.*

The *wrappers*, that is the duty on the paper which encloses the nostrum, form another item for the increase of our revenue ; and by taking the average number of stamps, and apportioning an average weight of paper to each packet, we can ascertain, with sufficient accuracy, the gross amount. The duty on paper is three halfpence per pound, and

supposing half an ounce weight of paper to accompany every stamp, or, for the sake of convenience, supposing the duty on each packet to be one farthing, (much higher than the truth,) the annual profit to Government would be 1685*l.* 10*s.**

The fifth source of revenue is the *patents*. The Government profits from these are very insignificant, though, judging from the frequent application of the term "patent medicines," it might be thought otherwise. The fact is, the title is either gratuitously assumed, or a small fee is occasionally paid at the stamp office to sanction its employment. The cost of a patent is from 120*l.* to 130*l.*, the greater part of which is paid by Government into the consolidated fund; for the last twenty years there have not been six patents granted for medicines of any description.

The conditions for obtaining a patent, are the claim of novelty by the inventor, and the obligation to enrol, within six months, a description of the discovery, which is open to public inspection. Under these circumstances, we can easily account for patent medicines, in the strict meaning of the term, being so few. If we estimate the revenue arising from them at 300*l.* per annum, we considerably exceed the truth.

From the preceding statements we may safely conclude that the profits of Government from the sale of quack medicines cannot, therefore, be more than the following amounts:—

* A large quantity of quack medicines are exported to America and elsewhere, which pay *no stamp duty*, but the *paper duty* is an additional gain to Government of 2 to 3,000*l.* per annum.

Stamps	£30,000
Advertisements	10,000
Licenses	4,164
Wrappers	1,685
Patents	300
Making a total of	£46,149*

Now no one will pretend that this comparatively insignificant sum will impede every effort for the redress of our grievances, or that its conservation is of such vital importance as to render it probable that every principle of justice and all regard for the public welfare would be sacrificed for its continuance. On the contrary, we believe it will prove no real obstacle to our success, and if even it *should* be deemed important, it would not be difficult to propose a far more unexceptionable source of public revenue than the one we are considering.

But there are still other objections opposed to the course we are recommending. It is frequently remarked by members of the medical profession, as well as by others, that quackery can only be suppressed by enlightening the public mind, by diffusing correct information as to the healthy structure and functions of the body, and that medical men have the power of effecting this, to a very great extent, in their own hands.

We have certainly no right to doubt the sincerity of this objection, but we must be allowed to express our conviction of its utter fallacy. How much nearer, we would ask, are we to the sup-

* A few extra hundreds might also be added to include the loose pamphlets, &c., which the quack occasionally circulates.

pression of empiricism than we were two thousand years ago? What length of time do these objectors suppose to be necessary, judging from past experience, to infuse just ideas into the public mind upon the subject? How many years or centuries must education prevail before a sufficient elementary knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and of the principles of medicine, shall be obtained by the great mass of the inhabitants of this country? What *has* the very remarkable spread of information during the last century effected towards the extinction of empiricism? At what period of the world's history did quackery ever more rankly flourish than in the nineteenth century? How can we explain its unequalled successes at the present moment, on the supposition that education is to be its corrector? Are its knaveries believed only by the ignorant and the unlettered? Are not, some of the great, the noble, the learned of the land, among its blinded abettors? Is it not notorious that many of the class we are alluding to are credulous beyond expression, in all matters which have reference to the professions of quacks, and the curative powers of their nostrums? And who are more likely to quack themselves and others than shallow dabblers in physic?

Supposing, however, that education will ultimately become the instrument of the empiric's downfall; absurd as we believe such a supposition to be, on what principle of public expediency or common sense can we discourage the enactment of more summary measures, because, by and by, forsooth, the state of society will be such as to render

them unnecessary? God grant that this may be the case, but if we were to make an indefinite future anticipation of good the ground of refusal to legislate for the present, we ought to repeal every penal enactment whatever, since, unquestionably, the time will come when iniquity shall hide its head, and truth and justice prevail. Do not let us be influenced by any such delusive chimeras, by such unpracticable reasonings, but let us strenuously exert ourselves to provide the most efficient remedy for the evil of which existing circumstances will admit, and if we then fail, we can at least have the satisfaction of feeling that we have done what we could.

There is yet another statement which medical men are rather fond of advancing whenever urged to make a personal effort against the abuses of empiricism. They tell us "that it is rather a *delicate question* for medical men to agitate,—that they are the interested parties, and that the purity of their motives would therefore be suspected." Now really there is an apparent refinement of sentiment in this objection that makes one almost unwilling to lay bare its moral feebleness and fallacy. Only conceive the Barons of Runnymede when demanding the charter of their liberties, to have been swayed by such considerations. Were not they the interested parties? If medical men, from their hypersensibility, do not come forward and demand redress, who, we would enquire, ought? Why, the whole question is a medical one, and it is idle to suppose that its true bearings can be appreciated by any other class of society. To whom is the protection of the public health entrusted, if not to medical men? Whose

privileges are directly interfered with by the mal-practices of the quack, except those of the medical profession? And if those who are both morally responsible and personally interested, who are alone competent to judge of the extent of the evil, and whose corporate existence was for the express purpose of preventing the abuse we are discussing,—if *they* refuse to denounce the intruder, and to insist upon the protection of their privileges by fresh prohibitory measures,—if *they* fail to shield the public health from the assaults of mercenary pretenders to the utmost of their power, then all we can say is, that they are neglecting a positive duty, and acting on principles that would have proved fatal to every privilege which our forefathers have struggled to obtain.

We must not be discouraged from coming forward because legislative means, though rightly intended, have hitherto proved so practically inefficient; but rather bestir ourselves to discover whether more stringent measures are yet at our disposal; whether a little extra exertion on our part, a more decided insisting upon our rights, a little more urging of those in power, would not materially curtail the evil; and whether we could not, at least, diminish what we might not be able utterly to destroy? If such be the case, we are bound to come forward, and we can only pity the moral cowardice of those who shrink from the attempt, for fear of improper motives being attributed to them.

By others it is urged, "that to interfere by legal enactment may tend to give quacks even greater notoriety than they at present possess, and may

raise those who ought to be beneath our contempt, to something like the dignity of martyrs." So long as we limit our efforts to the prosecution of individual offenders, leaving them in possession of their present means of publicity, this objection is not wholly unfounded, though we do not believe it to be strictly correct; for it has been proved that the repeated verdicts of manslaughter against the notorious Morrison, have sensibly diminished the sale of his pills in the neighbourhood where the tragedies have occurred. But the assumption that we shall exalt the quack in public favour, when we deprive him of the very sinews of his trade, when we exclude him from the means of publicity, is too little probable to merit discussion. Let the avenues of the press be effectually closed, and the quack's hold upon the sympathy of the public will be found to be very slender indeed. He could not, in fact, exist in his present and more offensive form.

We are not forgetting the melancholy fact that much quackery is to be found *in the profession* as well as out of it, and that medical men have unblushingly come forward in its defence, either vaunting some nostrum of their own, or lending the influence of their names to the propagation of error and imposture; that they have become the mercenary hirelings of audacious adventurers, and merged in the depths of their selfish cupidity the best interests of the profession they were bound by every honourable feeling to support. Nor are we unmindful that many other gross abuses and imperfections still exist in our medical institutions, which every liberal minded man would do his

utmost to remove; but we have purposely kept aloof from their consideration, not wishing to distract the attention from those urgent abuses which are without, and being anxious that we should not withhold our efforts for the destruction of a great and crying evil until that far distant though much-wished-for day shall arrive, when the medical profession shall be cleansed from all existing impurities, and occupy that place in the estimation of mankind to which it is so justly entitled. There is no medical reformer less efficient than the man who is constantly putting off the day of improvement until the whole of his scheme can be accomplished. We must go on attacking and undermining the abuses which lie exposed to invasion, and we know of none comparable in importance to the one we are now discussing, and in the destruction of which so many of the best interests of the profession are involved.

Before we proceed to specify the particular measures to be adopted, let us take a rapid survey of the present state of our penal enactments against empiricism, and we think the practicability of additional restrictions will then become apparent.*

The common law recognises the physician and the surgeon, but the quack is unknown to it; that is, he cannot recover on account of any drugs or medicines sold or administered. But quack doctors, for merely practising without doing harm, (if that is possible,) are not responsible, and only become so

* For these details we are principally indebted to a very able summary of the Laws of the Medical Profession, by Wm. Theobald, Esq., barrister, published in the *British Medical Almanac*, for 1838; and also to Mr. Willcox's useful volume on the same subject.

in case of death happening through their want of skill or negligence. Criminal intention or gross ignorance can alone entitle to a verdict.

The College of Physicians has the power of enforcing a penalty of ten pounds, or five pounds, (depending on the offence being in or out of London,) for every month that an unqualified person shall practise physic; but the penalty is recoverable with great difficulty, from the nature of the proof required. It is probable from the statute of the 34th Henry VIII, that the practice of surgery is also included, though the Court has, in some instances, decided to the contrary.

The Apothecaries Act of the 55th George III, gives the power to impose a penalty of twenty pounds on every uncertificated practitioner, excepting those who were in practice on the 1st day of August, 1815; and this extends to assistants of apothecaries who have not either a certificate from the Company, or an indenture of five years' apprenticeship. In the last case the fine is reduced to five pounds. The process of recovery is, however, difficult, protracted, and very expensive.

Under the head of "malpractice" certain powers are vested in the four Censors, appointed by the College of Physicians, against the individual who undertakes the practice of physic without the ordinary skill and knowledge necessary to perform his duty towards those who resort to him in his assumed character. They have, however, long ceased to discharge their duty, though they still retain their power, and might be compelled, by mandamus, to exercise it.

Very similar powers were vested in the College of Surgeons, by the charter of the 15th Charles I., which has been confirmed by the 40 George III. The empiric is there mentioned by name, and is prohibited to stick bills or placards on walls, or to exhibit signs, or to use any other means to attract the unwary ; but no penalty is mentioned.

It has also been supposed that the quack is liable to prosecution on the ground of *obtaining money under false pretences*,—that he is, in fact, a *swindler* ; and Mr. Theobald, in the excellent digest of Medical Laws, already referred to, has pointed out the following distinction, which perhaps is not without importance :—“ That a man who sells poison under an attractive name, commits a *nuisance*, and is indictable before any fatal consequence happens.” *The danger* to the public makes the nuisance. Supposing this to be enforced, the sale of quack medicines could then be carried on only under the obscure name of the quacks themselves, without their delusive statements.

From the preceding brief references it will be easily seen that the existing laws against empiricism are very imperfect and inoperative, and that they are wholly inapplicable to quackery under its present form.

In the case of *quack medicines*, indeed, “ Parliament, instead of dishonouring, actually recognises the poisons, imposes a stamp, and with it a *moral* value upon them ; and their sale, with their impudent labels, and often fatally deceptive statements, become, by necessary implication, *legal*, and therefore punishable. That there is great inconsistency

in punishing persons who practice as physicians, surgeons, or apothecaries, without a license, and at the same time giving impunity to the sale of quack medicines, in the form which it takes at present, is evident, when we consider the real character of the bills which accompany the stamped poisons. What are they but *printed prescriptions* of particular doses of secret ingredients to be taken as medicines? What are they but substitutes for the prescriptions of the physician? Their very object is to render it unnecessary to resort to the educated skill and judgment of the qualified practitioner; and this object they effect by inspiring the faith of the ignorant." With, unfortunately, the exception of midwifery, every portion of medical practice is embraced in the statute law, and the inconsistency is too glaring for Government to be lending its sanction to and deriving profit from a system which sets at defiance all such protection, both as regards the public and the profession, and gives unbounded licence to the murderous practices of the most mercenary and ignorant of men. What, we would ask, can be more anomalous than to hear the verdict of manslaughter recorded and re-recorded in our Courts, and yet *the system* to which such fearful consequences are to be ascribed to be stamped with legislative approval, and made a source of national profit? Surely such a state of things cannot resist a unanimous and decided expression of professional feeling, and we are fully satisfied that if it is attacked, as it ought to be, in the Courts and in Parliament, by the profession at large, many great and important ameliorations cannot fail to be speedily obtained.

And now, having demonstrated the groundlessness and fallacy of many of the prejudices and objections which medical men are too apt to entertain upon the subject before us, and having pointed out the utter insufficiency of all existing enactments for our protection, let us, in conclusion, specify the means which are necessary for our safety, and for the securing of which we ought most zealously to unite.

1stly.—The first and most important requisition should be, that all *quack advertisements, either through the medium of the newspapers, placards, pamphlets, or other printed channels, be declared illegal, and that both the printer and the author be liable, for each offence, to fine and imprisonment.*

Remarks.—There is nothing which should startle us in this proposal, nothing which improperly infringes the liberty of the subject or of the press. Quack advertisements are equivalent to, and worse in their effects, than the personal and unqualified practice of medicine; the quack having the power of discrimination. Their necessarily injurious influence upon the public health, their flagrant falsehoods, their mercenary character, their direct violation of the whole spirit and privileges of the constituted medical bodies, at once point out their contraband nature,—their illegality. To demand their entire suppression is, therefore, to ask for the most ordinary exercise of protective power on the part of the Government; and the more we have reflected upon this subject, the more satisfied we are that every other means which can be devised will prove comparatively inert, unless assisted by the one we are now recommending.

2ndly.—We should demand *the abolition of the stamp duty on medicines.*

Remarks.—There is no restriction whatever in the obtaining of a stamp ; no enquiry instituted as to the properties of the article thus legalised. It is only necessary to compound a nostrum, and puff it in any way best suited to our purposes, and Government never refuses to sanction it by a stamp. We do not think that stamps were *intended* to express legislative approval, but their moral tendency upon the public mind is unquestionably to do so.

3rdly.—*That the sale of all secret medicines, (unless sanctioned by a medical jury, and accompanied with statements ratified by the experience of qualified and respectable practitioners,) be declared illegal, and the vendors thereof liable to a fine for every offence.**

Remarks.—We need scarcely observe to professional readers that almost the whole of quack medicines are the revival of some once popular formula of our obsolete pharmacopæias, or are the recipe of some well-known medical man, and which he was frequently in the habit of prescribing. There is scarcely one which has any claim to novelty, nor is there one, if we except Dr. James's fever powder, possessed of any properties which could for a moment counterbalance the evil of retaining it in a secret form ; and that we could very easily dispense with this far-famed preparation, will be readily

* The clause between parenthesis is introduced to meet the prejudices of some among our rulers who still think that many valuable remedies would be lost to the public were all secret medicines abolished. We think it would be much better to suppress them altogether.

admitted by all. The whole genius of a liberal profession is and should be opposed to what is secret, and no individual belonging to it should be allowed to make a profit by any such preparation beyond the limits of his own practice. Medical bodies should be possessed of summary power to deprive of his qualification any individual who pursued this, or any other unprofessional mode of making money, or gaining notoriety.

Should an instance occur where a means has been discovered which pretends to greater virtue than any we previously possessed, let the discoverer state his claims before a Medical Commission, and if they are substantiated, let him be rewarded accordingly; but the secret must then be divulged. And if an unprofessional person should make the same pretensions, but refuse to disclose the secret, let him only be allowed to use it after he has qualified himself for so doing, by going through the appointed course of medical studies, which can alone render him competent to judge of its real efficacy, or to exercise any proper discretion in its administration.

4thly.—*That all establishments for the practice of medicine or the application of remedial means, unless conducted by properly qualified medical men, be at once put down, and their originators rendered liable to fine and imprisonment.* The necessity for this is too apparent to need comment.

5thly.—*That any individual guilty of practising, or of attempting to practice, without a legal qualification to do so, (always excepting cases of gratuitous administration of remedies when medical advice cannot be procured,) be, ipso facto, liable to punish-*

ment, the penalty to increase with each repetition of the offence.

Remarks.—To render legislation cheap and speedy, and to distinguish who is and who is not entitled to practise, the action might be simply founded upon the possession of a certificate or diploma from some recognised University, or, as has been lately recommended, upon the fact of the individual being registered or not in an office appointed for that purpose. If this last regulation was cautiously enforced, it would be less liable to be evaded than the first.

6thly.—Let a Medical Censor be appointed, with all due publicity, in every district of convenient dimensions, whose bounden duty it shall be, either from personal knowledge, or from information received from others, to enforce the penalties attached to the infringement of medical laws.

Remarks.—This provision is important, for were the power vested in the members of the profession generally, they would scarcely ever be exerted, since few would feel disposed voluntarily to incur the trouble and unpleasantness attached to such interference.

7thly.—Let all penalties be inflicted by the local magistrate; and let the offence be simply grounded upon unqualified practice, to be determined by the plan we have already mentioned.

Remarks.—Simplifying the offence, and rendering the legal process unexpensive and speedy, is so essential, that no enactments will prove practically efficient which cannot be thus enforced.

We do not consider the above as a complete code of anti-empirical regulations, but as including the

leading and more essential restrictions ; and though we are quite ready to admit that quackery, in some form or other, will continue to prevail in spite of the best contrived preventive legislation, (because originating in causes too deep for human laws to uproot,) yet we are equally convinced that we have it in our power to control, most materially, the extent of its operations, and to reduce its immoral and devastating influence to within comparatively very narrow limits.

The course to be pursued by the medical profession is to unite in *unanimous petitioning*. Each town and district should send its separate petition, and this should be forwarded to the respective members of the locality, requesting their personal support. The plan usually adopted of sending all petitions to one or two who are interested in medical questions, is materially to diminish the general effect upon the House, and the members, individually, feel no interest in the subject, or, at least, each concludes that its advocacy is entrusted to another. The number of the petitions is of more importance than the number of signatures, though the more numerously they are signed, the better. They should under all circumstances be forwarded. It would be also very desirable that they should be simultaneously prepared in time for presentation early in the next session.

No differences of opinion in our demands should be manifested, and it would be perhaps preferable were one form of petition generally adopted ; this would indicate unanimity, and save time and trouble. We shall therefore conclude these rather lengthened

remarks, by submitting the subjoined sketch to the judgment of the Association.

FORM OF AN ANTI-QUACKERY PETITION.

That from the time of Henry VIII, up to a very recent period, a series of legislative medical enactments have received the sanction of your honourable house, all tending to the protection of the privileges of the medical profession, and the punishment of unqualified practitioners.

That the charters and statutes of all our medical corporations originated in the conviction that a high standard of qualification should be secured for those entrusted with the arduous and responsible duty of ministering to the public health, and they all fully establish the principle of protecting society against ignorance and deception.

That, with the exception of midwifery, every branch of the medical profession is included in the provisions of the statute law; but that your petitioners feel called upon to state that all existing regulations are wholly inefficient for the protection they were intended to afford, and that the privileges of the medical profession are, with impunity, most grossly infringed, and the public health most injuriously tampered with by ignorant and unprincipled quacks.

That this serious defect is to be greatly attributed to all previous restrictions being directed against the unqualified practitioner himself, and not against the sale of his death-dealing nostrums.

That the medical empiric is in possession of means for pursuing his baneful traffic, which your

petitioners deem wholly inconsistent with a due regard to the national health, and to professional privileges, and that so long as he can avail himself of them, will all other restrictions prove futile and unavailing.

That the Government, instead of dishonouring and repressing to the utmost of its power, the deadly nostrums of the empiric, *recognises the poisons*, imposes a stamp, and with it a moral value upon them, their sale, with their impudent labels and often fatally deceptive statements, thus becoming, by necessary implication, legal, and therefore dispusnishable.

That there is great injustice and inconsistency in punishing persons who practice as physicians, surgeons, or apothecaries, without a license, and at the same time giving impunity to the sale of quack medicines, which are nothing else but printed prescriptions of particular doses of secret ingredients, intended as substitutes for the educated skill and judgment of the legalised practitioner.

That the press is the great instrument of empirical success, and that the quack, by means of advertisements, placards, pamphlets, &c., has an unlimited power of trading upon the public ignorance and credulity, and of openly violating every restriction which the Legislature has imposed.

That establishments for the practice of medicine, or the application of remedial means, are conducted by individuals wholly destitute of all medical qualification, a fact evidently at variance with the admitted necessity of Medical Schools and Universities.

That the malpractices of the quack are made

through the advertisements, stamps, and license duties, a legalised source of revenue to the amount of nearly 50,000*l.* a year, which your petitioners believe to be morally indefensible, and wholly irreconcilable with a due regard to the public welfare, and the chartered privileges of the medical corporations.

Your petitioners, therefore, earnestly submit the subject to the early and patient attention of your honourable house, and respectfully propose the following regulations for your mature consideration.

(Here may follow the Regulations 1, 2, 3, 4, &c., as before stated.)

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

NOTE 1.—We have been kindly informed, by Dr. Webster, that the British Medical Association are formally investigating the evils of empiricism, and that the plan they may adopt will probably be similar in its spirit to the one we have now proposed. He justly insists upon the importance of including chemists and druggists in the restrictions, but we have purposely omitted reference to them, because their consideration would necessarily involve other questions relating to the constitution of the profession generally; and this we are anxious to avoid, believing that non-professional empiricism had better be attacked singly. It is evident, however, that were the regulations we have now specified carried into effect, they would materially curtail the empiricism of the druggist.

The British Medical Association are meditating a comprehensive scheme for a national faculty of medicine, and measures for the suppression of quackery are to be carried out in connection with this more general plan. Under these circumstances we cannot look forward to their speedy consummation, and the Provincial Association should, therefore, be more unwearied in their efforts for its immediate abolition.

In France, as we are credibly informed, a Bill will be introduced next Session, for the purpose of effectually suppressing empiricism,

as far, at least, as legal enactments can do it. The law, as it at present stands, is much more efficacious than our own ; and, since 1830, secret remedies have considerably decreased, in consequence of the authorization of the Minister being necessary for their sale, and this can only be granted after the Academy of Medicine have furnished their report upon the nostrum. The chemists and druggists are also more effectually restricted than with us, and the verdicts against the quack, or even the qualified professional man if convicted of quackery, are far more severe than any which our Courts have ventured to inflict.

NOTE 2.—The following extract from a letter by Dr. Macartney came too late to be incorporated :—

" I shall be very happy to contribute, in any manner, my assistance to the suppression of quackery in all its forms. It appears to me that we only want a short Act of Parliament, imposing a smart fine on all persons receiving money for advice or medicine, unless they possess some legal qualification to practice. I would prohibit druggists compounding medicines, or selling them in small portions or doses ; I should propose to give the entire fine to the informer, and make it the duty of the Inspectors to prosecute in some cheap and summary manner before a Magistrate, who should also be authorised to hear such cases on any person's information. I would recommend that the sale of all secret medicines should be penal.

NOTE 3.—The following extract from Dr. Barlow's able pamphlet *An Inquiry into the General State of the Profession of Physic* (1818) is so appropriate, that we make no apology for its insertion.

" If the Legislature provide all due facility for the supply of regular and legalized practitioners equaling the demand, so as to ensure a sufficiency of such accommodation to the public, it has every right afterwards to insist, that the denominations by which such regular practitioners are distinguished, shall be strictly confined to them, and not usurped by unqualified pretenders. * * * To attempt to restrain the public from seeking advice in any quarter, or any individual from giving it when applied to, is absurd, and must ever be nugatory ; for the public never will submit to such dictation. No one, however, who is not duly qualified, should be suffered to assume a denomination calculated to mislead the public into a belief of his competency, or to hold out any signals or inducements to lure them to his toils. To this extent may restriction be carried, without the slightest trespass on natural rights, or the least risk of impeding the just service of the public ; beyond it, they can neither prove just nor satisfactory. * * * The extent to which gross and open quackery is carried on, by means of secret remedies, is grievous and

unparalleled. This is an evil of no ordinary magnitude; for, though cases may readily be adduced of the successful exhibition of such drugs, it will hardly be disputed that the instances of unprofitable and of deleterious employment, outweigh these a hundredfold. In defence of the present system, it has, I know, been plausibly urged, that, by the opportunity which the granting of patents affords, secret truth is brought to light, and valuable remedies introduced, the knowledge of which might otherwise perish with the inventors. If the remedies justly entitled to this description be separated from the myriads of panaceas which are so powerfully blazoned forth in the columns of our daily prints, and their relative proportions be ascertained, I shall be quite content to have the question decided by this issue. If it be proved favourable to the dissemination of truth, the interests of science, and the rights of humanity, by the number and importance of the discoveries thus elicited, let a system so pregnant with advantage be by all means nurtured and maintained. But if, on the contrary, it shall be manifested, that the practice of taking out patents, is but one of the many fraudulent schemes for promoting private gain at the expense of unwary credulity,—that the multitude of compositions thus foisted on the public, as the results of study and experiment, are composed of ingredients in familiar use, whose powers are well known to the regular faculty, and are oftentimes injured or impaired, rather than improved or increased, by the farrago with which, for sake of originality, and to establish a legal claim to his patent, the inventor thinks proper to combine them,—that the indiscriminate exhibition of such drugs, which the impudent and false assertions of the patentees obtrude on the public by every expedient, and present with all the speciousness of attested facts, is the means of destruction to thousands. If these things be so, it may behove the Legislature to weigh well, how far evils of such magnitude are counterbalanced by the slight and equivocal benefit which the defence contends for, or even by the amount of revenue which the stamps and advertisements of charlatanry afford to the State. Should the evils ascribed to the present system of legislation and delusion be demonstratively proved, other and better means both of rewarding ingenuity and enriching the exchequer, may surely be devised. But let not every daring and hardened impostor who can muster up the cost of procuring a patent, and sear his conscience to the point of sacredly attesting those falsehoods by which he unblushingly maintains the efficacy of his inert or noxious nostrums, have power to extend his deceptions, under the sanction of the royal license, or to practice successfully this juggle of the worst kind."

A CIRCULAR LETTER

FROM THE

VACCINATION SECTION.

SIR,

AT the last Anniversary of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, held at Bath, a Section was appointed to draw up a Report on the present state of Vaccination, and to present such Report at the next Anniversary, to be held at Liverpool.

The following gentlemen constitute this Section:—Dr. Baron, Cheltenham, President; Dr. W. Conolly, Cheltenham, Mr. Dodd, Chichester, Secretaries; Dr. Kendrick, Warrington; Dr. Shapter, Exeter; Dr. John Conolly, Birmingham; Mr. Ryland, Birmingham; Mr. Gore, Bath; Dr. Blackmore, Bath; Dr. Streeten, Worcester; Dr. Malden, Worcester; Mr. Hebb, Worcester; Dr. Ogier Ward, Shrewsbury; Dr. Goldie, York; Dr. Bullar, Southampton; Dr. Evans, Gloucester; Mr. Goolden, Maidstone; Mr. Coles, Cheltenham; Mr. Long, Liverpool; Mr. Loe, Leeds; Mr. Greenhow, Newcastle; Dr. J. Cox, Edinburgh; Dr. Engledew, Portsmouth; Dr. Gregory, London; Dr. Mac Crorie, Liverpool; Mr. Noble, Manchester; Dr. Heatheote, Rotherham; Dr. Nunn, Colchester; Dr. Brown, Sunderland; Mr. Crosse, Norwich.

The Section will feel greatly obliged if you will have the goodness, at your earliest convenience, to send replies to the following questions, to either of the Secretaries; and if you would be so kind as to number them so as to correspond to the number affixed to the questions, you will materially

facilitate their labour. Should you find it convenient to add any remarks calculated to throw light upon the subject which is to engage the attention of the Section, they will be most respectfully and thankfully received.

We have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your very obedient Servants,

WILLIAM CONOLLY, }
A. T. S. DODD, } Secretaries.

- 1st.—When did you begin to practice vaccine innoculation ?
- 2nd.—What number of persons have you vaccinated ?
- 3rd.—In how many cases have you seen small pox follow vaccination ?
- 4th.—Have any such cases been fatal ?
- 5th.—Have you reason to believe that in those cases where vaccination failed to protect the constitution the vaccination was imperfect, or that its course had in any way been interfered with ?
- 6th.—Have you observed that the vaccine vesicles which have been excited of late years have been less developed, and shown less of the genuine character of the affection than they did in former years ?
- 7th.—Have you found a greater number of failures among those who were recently vaccinated, or among those who had been vaccinated at a more recent period ?
- 8th.—Are you in the habit of using recent or dried lymph ?
- 9th.—Have you observed that it is possible by vaccinating from vesicles not perfectly correct, to propagate an affection which does not afford complete protection against small-pox ?
- 10th.—What is the longest interval between the vaccination of any of your patients and their exposure to the contagion of small-pox without feeling its effect ?
- 11th.—What is the shortest period that has elapsed between vaccination and a subsequent attack of small-pox ?

- 12th.—Have many of the cases of failure occurred in persons of the same family ?
- 13th.—Have you reason to think that vesicular or any other disease of the skin interferes with the regular progress of the vaccine vesicle, or in any way impedes its influence on the constitution ?
- 14th.—In the cases where the protection has not been complete, have you observed the modifying effects of vaccination in mitigating the severity and diminishing the mortality of small-pox to be very apparent ?
- 15th.—How many cases of small-pox after small-pox have occurred in your practice ?
- 16th.—How many of such cases have proved fatal ?
- 17th.—Have such cases occurred in persons of the same family, or among individuals in whom you could detect any peculiarity of constitution ?
- 18th.—Have you ever seen the variola vaccina affecting the cattle in your neighbourhood, and did you ever see it in a severe or fatal form as it has been known to exist in England and other countries, and as it now exists in Bengal.*
- 19th.—Have you ever employed equine lymph which has never passed through the cow ?
- 20th.—Do you think that Dr. Jenner's opinion is correct, that the cow-pox and small-pox are not *bonâ fide* dissimilar but identical, and that the vaccine disease is not

* It appears from a paper published by the Medical and Physical Society of Calcutta, that the cows in Bengal are subject to an eruptive disease, to which the natives give the same name as they apply to the variola in the human subject. Virus taken from this source in 1832, produced the genuine variola vaccina in the human subject. Some years later the epizootic was more virulent, resembling similar pestilences which had been described by Lancisi, Lanzoni, and Laird. (See Baron's *Life of Jenner*, vol. I, p. 199, &c.) Vaccination from this virus has produced not the solitary vaccine vesicle, but an eruptive disease of the true variolous character. (See *Quarterly Journal of the Calcutta Medical and Physical Transactions*, No. 11, April, 1837; and Baron's *Life of Jenner*, vol. II, p. 238.)

the preventive of the small-pox, but the small-pox itself in its mildest form, the virulent and contagious disease being a malignant variety?

21st.—Does the history of the variola among the inferior animals, which proves how much they have been visited by that disease in its severest form during many ages and in many countries, tend, in your opinion, to confirm or refute this opinion?

22nd.—Have you reason to think that the protection afforded by complete vaccination is of a transient and evanescent character, or that after the lapse of years it ceases to afford security?

23rd.—Are you in the habit of re-vaccinating your patients after a certain interval?

24th.—Can you say what proportion of such receive the infection?

25th.—Do you think the numbers increase with the distance of time from the first vaccination?

26th.—Is small-pox inoculation performed in your town or neighbourhood?

27th.—Is this practice carried on by professional or non-professional persons?

28th.—Can you trace the diffusion of small-pox in your neighbourhood to the contagion thus introduced?

29th.—Do you think the prejudices of the lower orders against vaccination are on the increase or otherwise?

30th.—Do you think they are encouraged or promoted by those non-professional persons who derive emolument from small-pox inoculation?

31st.—Do you think it would be prudent to attempt to induce the Legislature to restrain all persons who have not received a regular professional education from practising small-pox inoculation?

APPENDIX.

*List of Donors and Subscribers to the Benevolent Fund of
the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association.*

	Donations. £. s. d.	Annual Subscriptions. £. s. d.		
		...	0	10
Addison, Mr., Malvern				6
Baron, Dr., Cheltenham	20 0 0	...	1	1 0
Barlow, Dr., Bath	2 2 0	...	1	1 0
Baillie, Mrs., Cavendish Square, London ...	10 0 0	...		
Baillie, W. H., Esq.	5 0 0	...	2	2 0
Bevan, Dr., Monmouth .....		...	1	1 0
Bernard, Dr., Cheltenham .....		...	1	1 0
Bickersteth, Mr., Liverpool	5 5 0	...	1	1 0
Blackmore, Dr., Bath .....		...	1	1 0
Baird, Dr., Liverpool .....		...	1	1 0
Bowie, Dr., Bath .....		...	2	2 0
Boven Mr., Warrington .....		...	0	10 0
Beaumont, Mr., Warrington .....		...	0	10 0
Bernard, Dr. James, Bristol .....		...	1	1 0
Barrett, Mr., Sherborne .....		...	0	5 0
Batt, Mr., Clifton	10 0 0	...		
Bally, Mr. W. Ford, Bath .....		...	1	1 0
*Brooks, Mr.,	1 1 0	...		
*Brewer, Mr., Newport	2 2 0	..	1	1 0
*Bardsley, Dr. James, Manchester .....		...	1	1 0
Conolly, Dr., Cheltenham	2 2 0	...	1	1 0
Cooke, Mr. C. T., Cheltenham	4 4 0	...	1	1 0
Coles, Mr., Cheltenham .....		...	0	10 0
Cole, Mr. Bewdley .....		...	1	1 0
Crosse, Mr., Norwich .....		...	1	1 0
Cannon, Dr., Cheltenham .....		...	1	1 0
Coley, Dr., Cheltenham .....		...	1	1 0
Contributions of the Ladies of Warrington and its Neighbourhood, through Dr. Kendrick .....		...	33	5 0
Clare, Mr., Warrington .....		...	1	1 0
Collected in small sums by Mrs. Stephenson, Worcester .....		...	3	0 0

	Donations. £. s. d.	Annual Subscriptions. £. s. d.
Contributions of a Wine Party at the Anniversary Dinner, 1838 0 15 0
Cropper, Mr., Warrington 1 0 0
Contributions of the Ladies of Runcorn and its Vicinity, through Dr. Kendrick.....		... 6 19 0
*Carrick, the late Dr., Clifton	20 0 0	...
*Cartwright, Mr. Henry, Torquay	5 0 0	...
*Daubeney, Dr., Oxford 1 1 0
Davis, Dr., Presteign 0 5 0
*Davis, Mr. W.	1 1 0	...
*Dawson, Mr., Liverpool	10 0 0	...
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Fryer, Mr., Bewdley	20 0 0	...
Forbes, Dr., Chichester 1 1 0
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Fox, Dr. Henry, Bristol 1 1 0
Feild, Dr., Worcester 1 1 0
Flower, Mr., Chilcompton 1 0 0
Fripp, Mr., Bristol 0 10 0
Farr, Mr. William, London, the surplus of a sum presented to him by the Association for his exertions in aid of the Poor Law Committee, after deducting his actual expenses	9 3 0	...
Falkner, Mr. Robert, Bath 1 1 0
Griffiths, Mr., Hereford	2 2 0	... 1 1 0
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Hastings, Dr., Worcester	2 2 0	... 1 1 0
Holme, Dr., Manchester	20 0 0	...
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Lye, Dr. Bleeck, Hereford	2 2 0	... 1 1 0
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Rumsey, Dr., Amersham	5 5 0	... 1 1 0
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Rumsey, Mr., Gloucester 1 1 0
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	Donations. £. s. d.	Annual Subscriptions. £. s. d.
Soden, Mr., Bath	2 2 0	1 1 0
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Squires, Dr., Liverpool		1 1 0
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Smith, Mr. H. Lilley, Southam	1 1 0	...
Sharp, Mr., Warrington		1 1 0
Symonds, Dr., Bristol		1 1 0
Stamford and Warrington, the Right Hon. Earl of		3 0 0
*Seager, Mr., Cheltenham	2 2 0	1 1 0
*Steel, Mr., Abergavenny		1 1 0
Terrett, John, Esq., Tewkesbury	10 0 0	...
Tudor, Mr. Bath	2 2 0	...
Todderick, Dr., Exeter	3 3 0	...
Thackeray, Martin, Esq.	5 0 0	...
Thomas, Dr. Reynolds C., Cheltenham		0 10 0
*Turner, Mr., Manchester		1 1 0
Woods, Mrs., Isle of Man	1 1 0	...
Woods, Miss, Isle of Man	1 1 0	...
Watson, Dr. James, Bath		1 1 0
Ware, Mr., Clifton		1 1 0
*Wingfield, Mr., Oxford	2 2 0	...
*Wilson, Mr., Manchester		1 1 0
*Wilson, Mr. Monmouth		1 1 0

All communications to the Central Committee to be addressed to the Treasurer and Secretary, Dr. Conolly, Castleton House, near Cheltenham.

Contributions are received by any member of the Local Committee, and by the Treasurer.

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Dr. Bernard.

Mr. C. T. Cooke.

Mr. Murley.

Dr. Conolly, *Honorary Secretary
and Treasurer.*

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Dr. Macmillen.	

THE FOLLOWING ARE
THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTS
TO WHICH THE ATTENTION OF THE
PROVINCIAL
MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION
IS DIRECTED.

1st.—COLLECTION of useful information, whether speculative or practical, through Original Essays, or Reports of Provincial Hospitals, Infirmarys, or Dispensaries, or of private practice.

2nd.—Increase of knowledge of the medical topography of England, through statistical, meteorological, geological, and botanical inquiries.

3rd.—Investigations of the modifications of endemic and epidemic diseases, in different situations, and at various periods, so as to trace, so far as the present imperfect state of the art will permit, their connexions with peculiarities of soil or climate, or with the localities, habits, and occupations of the people.

4th.—Advancement of medico-legal science, through succinct Reports of whatever cases may occur in Provincial Courts of Judicature.

5th.—Maintenance of the honour and respectability of the profession, generally, in the provinces, by promoting friendly intercourse and free communication of its Members; and by establishing among them the harmony and good feeling which ought ever to characterise a liberal profession.

THE LAWS
OF THE
PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL
ASSOCIATION.

1st.—THAT a Provincial Medical and Surgical Association be formed.

2nd.—That the Association be managed by a President, two Secretaries, and a Council.

3rd.—That the several Officers be appointed annually, by a General Meeting of Members convened for that purpose, at whichever of the principal towns may be appointed; the place of such Meeting being prospectively notified each year.

4th.—That at this Meeting shall be presented a Report, prepared by the Secretaries, of the general state of the Association, its proceedings, and pecuniary accounts; the Report to be afterwards printed, and a copy supplied to every Member.

5th.—That at this Meeting one of the Members shall be appointed to give, at the next Annual Meeting, an account of the state or progress of Medical Science during the last year, or an Oration on some subject connected with Medical Science, or a Biographical Memoir of some eminent cultivator of Medical Science, who may have resided in the Provincees.

PRESIDENT.

6th.—That the office of President be honorary, and conferred on some senior Physician or Surgeon of eminence, resident in any of the provincial towns comprised in the circle of the Association.

SECRETARIES.

7th.—That the two Secretaries be resident in Worcester, the place of publication, their duties being to attend to the printing of the *Transactions*, and to correct the press; to be present at the meetings of the Council, and to keep the minutes thereof; to correspond with the Members of the Association; to receive and submit to the Council all papers transmitted for publication; and to keep the financial accounts of the Association.

COUNCIL.

8th.—That the Council consist of —— Members, to be selected from the principal provincial towns. The Council, with whom must rest the chief responsibility of publication, to have full power of deciding on all papers transmitted, and the consent of three of its Members must be obtained before any paper can be published. It shall also be the duty of the Council to receive the subscriptions, when due, in their respective districts. Each Member of the Association to pay one guinea admission, and the same amount, annually, afterwards ; the subscription to commence from the 1st of January each year, and to be considered as due, unless notice of its being withdrawn be given to one of the Secretaries antecedently to the year for which it would be payable ; for such subscription each Member shall receive a copy of each part of the *Transactions* published. Each volume to contain a list of all the Members.

REGULATIONS OF THE DISTRICT BRANCHES.

9th.—That Members of the Association be at liberty to form District Branches wherever it may suit their convenience.

10th.—That in order to facilitate the formation of such Branches, and maintain uniformity amongst them, the General Council provide suitable instructions for the guidance of those who may unite in instituting them.

11th.—That conformity with these instructions be further ensured, by the initiating proceedings and organization of each Branch being submitted to the General Council, for their revision and approval.

12th.—That the District Branches be free to govern themselves as their respective Members may think fit ; but that the by-laws ordaining the special government, be submitted to the General Council previously to their taking effect, in order to guard against the possibility of any such by-laws contravening the fundamental laws of the Association.

13th.—That all Members appointed to offices by the District Branches, be forthwith enrolled as Members of the General Council, on the appointments being officially notified to the General Council, it being highly expedient that all who engage in the executive management of the District Branches, should be also Members of the General Council.

14th.—That the expenses incurred by the District Secretaries in conducting the proceedings of the District Branches be defrayed from the general fund, provided such expenses do not, in any instance, exceed one-seventh part of the guinea subscribed by each Member enrolled in the District Branch.

15th.—That if any circumstance arise in the formation of District Branches, which call for a larger expenditure than what is allowed by the foregoing resolution, such expenses, provided they do not exceed one-fourth of the guinea, may be allowed, by a statement of the circumstances being made known to the General Council.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS, ANNUAL MEETINGS, &c.

16th.—That each Member, on applying for admission, be nominated by two Members, as a pledge of eligibility.

17th.—That at each Annual Meeting, the place of meeting for the ensuing year shall be announced.

18th.—That any Member wishing to propose a new law, or an alteration in an existing law, must send notice of his intention to one of the Secretaries three months previous to the Anniversary Meeting, which will be circulated with the Report of the Council.

19th.—That the Association appoint Honorary Members at the Anniversary Meetings only.

20th.—That the Association appoint Members in foreign countries to be styled “Honorary Corresponding Members,” from whom communications, respecting the state of medicine in those countries, is expected to be received.

21st.—That a Medical Benevolent Society, under the restrictions proposed in the Report of the Committee presented to the Anniversary Meeting at Oxford, be connected with the Association.

22nd.—That all Papers, and other Communications, be addressed to the Secretaries, Dr. Hastings or Mr. Sheppard, Worcester, and forwarded carriage free.

PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS, &c.

23rd.—That those Members who have not an opportunity of paying their subscriptions to a Member of the Council resident in their district, are requested to pay it through the medium of their own Bankers, to Messrs. Robarts and Co. London, for Messrs. Berwick & Co. Worcester, on account of the “Provincial Medical and Surgical Association.”

24th.—That Messrs. Berwick & Co. Old Bank, Worcester, be the Treasurers of the Association.

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THACKERAY PRIZE.

A PRIZE of FIFTY POUNDS will be awarded to the AUTHOR of the best ESSAY, having for its object,—“The investigation of the sources of the common continued Fevers of Great Britain and Ireland, and the ascertaining of the circumstances which favour the diffusion of these Diseases, and also those circumstances which may have a tendency to render them communicable from one person to another.”

The Prize will be open to the competition of the Members of every accredited School for Medicine and Surgery in the United Kingdom, and the Essays are to be sent to the Secretaries of the Association on or before the 1st of January, 1840.

Each Essay to have a Motto affixed, and to be accompanied with a sealed note, containing the Name and Residence of the Author, and the Motto is to be written on the outside of the note.

CHARLES HASTINGS, M.D., } Secretaries to the
J. P. SHEPPARD, Surgeon, } Association.

JUST PUBLISHED,

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OF THE

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OF

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